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163 ..... **After All Is Said and Done . . .**
Major Marcia E. Thompson, U.S. Army

168 ..... **Flags, Pennants & Colours**

174 ..... **Communications Course — The Interview Situation**
Capt. Peter O'Grady

175 ..... **Among Your Souveniers**
Cpl. Francis McDonald

181 ..... **An Tatú Mór Míleata 1935**
Cathal O Sándair

184 ..... **What the Papers Notice**

188 ..... **Uniform Section: No. 3**
F. Glenn Thompson

189 ..... **Letters to the Editor**

191 ..... **Book Reviews**

Cover:
Illustration from An t-Oglach, June 1926, signed G.A. Information on the artist would be welcomed. (Picture from Army Archives)

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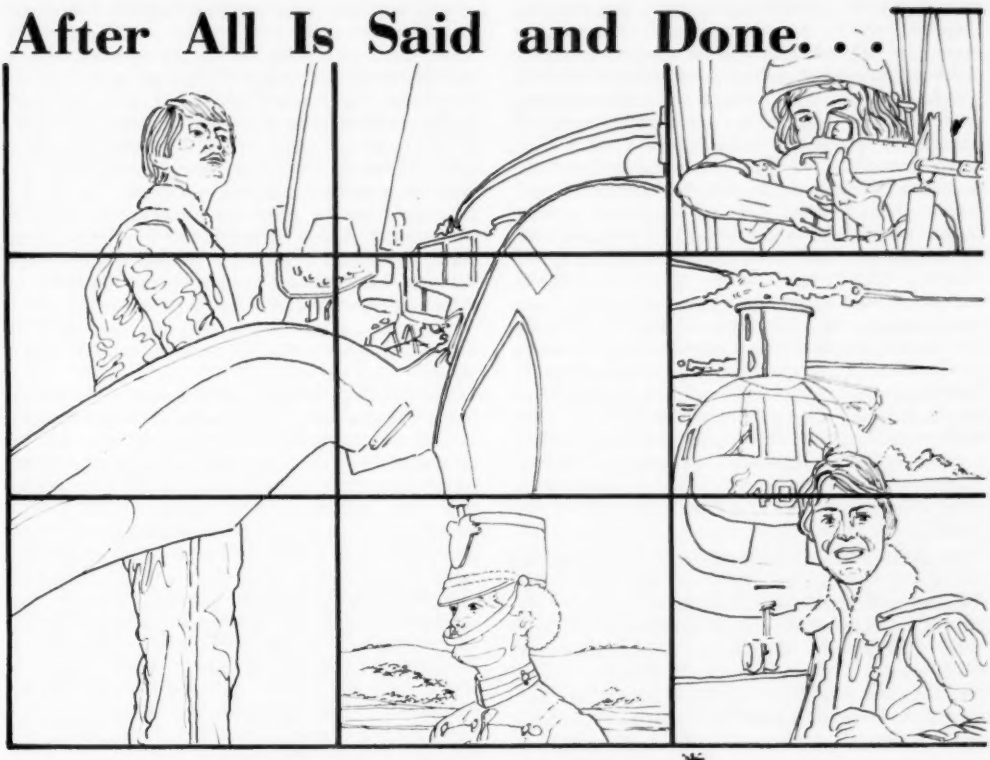
After All Is Said and Done. . .



Major Marcia E. Thompson, US Army *

"IT won't work." The first sergeant snorted and slammed the stack of orders on his desk. "Women in my company — those bums at battalion have finally done it." He jerked back his chair and stormed angrily into the captain's office.

Sound familiar? Of course, for only recently the scene has been a standard first act in orderly rooms throughout the Army. But the play is changing. As women successfully take their place in a previously all-male cast, the script is being rewritten. Studies are showing that the woman soldier is a vital personnel resource for the Army.

Although much publicity and public debate has centered upon obvious situations with which leadership must contend, these factors alone should not detract from the contributions which the female can make. After all is said and done, the woman soldier is a valuable part of our nation's defence and one whose potential is just beginning to be discovered. If commanders are to take full advantage of this potential, there are several important areas which demand greater attention. These are:

—Training.
—Personal attitudes.
—Physiological differences.
—Fraternization.
—Discipline.

While women soldiers have, in the past, been expected to perform as well as their male counterparts, they have not always received the same training. Usually well-qualified in military occupational specialty (MOS)-related skills, women received little, if any, tactical training. Only

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recently has the Army recognised this disparity and directed attention to improvements in the training base. In July 1974, women began receiving defensive weapons familiarization with the M16, on a voluntary basis, as part of the basic training curriculum. In June 1976, Army policy required women to participate in individual and unit weapons training on the same basis as the men.

Additional efforts to establish parity in the training base resulted in a test conducted at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, during 17 September and 11 November 1976, called the Basic Initial Entry Training (BIET) test. During this test, selected companies of men and women underwent the same type training. In all aspects of the instruction, except the physical readiness training, women performed on a par with their male counterparts.[1] Therefore, all Army women will receive the identical basic initial entry training as men, with slight modification to the physical training portion to accommodate differences in physical fitness aptitudes. Implementation of this fully integrated program is expected in late Fiscal Year (FY) 1978 or early FY 1979.[2]

Instruction in tactical techniques should enable women to participate fully in follow-on unit training and unit defense when necessary. This training should develop their confidence in their ability to function effectively in a defensive combat environment. Conversely, common training should instill greater confidence in the male soldier that women have been trained to react and perform under stressful conditions without becoming a burden to the unit. Such confidence is necessary to foster teamwork, esprit de corps and responsiveness to the direction of leadership, be it female or male, under adverse conditions.

Another point of debate in the full utilization of women has focused on physical limitations which preclude their performing all aspects of their MOS. Ongoing Army studies by the US Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Office of the Surgeon General will analyze the degree of physical fitness, strength and endurance required to perform each MOS without regard to sex. It is envisioned that a physical fitness standard profile will be developed and used in conjunction with the current medical standards profile to determine whether an individual, male or female, is qualified to perform a particular MOS.[3]

Progress is being made to assure parity in the training base so all soldiers will be well-qualified and trained to perform both MOS and non-MOS-related tasks. Unit training should continue to emphasize proficiency in defensive tactical techniques, especially for those women who will not have had the benefit of this training initially upon entering the Army.

Appreciation of women is evident when units are understrength, and they are accepted as peers in those units where the leadership demonstrates a positive attitude toward them.[4] In units heavily populated by women, employed in traditional skills, acceptance by peers and superiors generally is very good. However, as ever-increasing numbers of women move into the nontraditional, previously male-dominated specialties, acceptance as a vital human resource may not always be readily apparent. Although attitudes can be changed over time, the rapid expansion of the female force dictates that time is a luxury we can ill afford to waste. In December 1977, the secretary of the Army announced the opening of 14 more specialties to women, leaving only 16 combat-related fields closed.

Commanders and the noncommissioned officer leadership in these previously all-male spheres should be mentally and psychologically set to receive these women into their units properly. The importance of official attitudes toward women and how they influence their acceptance into new environments cannot be overemphasized. As illustrated in a recent article in *Army* magazine, some male cadets at West Point still hold negative attitudes toward women partially due to the original opposition to their presence expressed by the academy's top leadership. Further, hostility toward them appears greatest in those companies which have no women assigned.[5] The Army's MAX-WAC study confirms the perception that "previously all-male units will not readily accept females without some prior conditioning and training."[6] Commanders should take the initiative to profit from these lessons learned and prepare themselves to accept women with a positive attitude and an open mind, discarding preconceived ideas and stereotyped attitudes, in order to utilize this resource to its fullest capacity.

The training mechanisms already exist in the Army to bring about needed changes in attitudes, to heighten awareness of the unique needs of women and to prepare male leaders psychologically, to cope with and meet these needs. Education focusing on group dynamics and interpersonal relationships, race relations/equal opportunity and organizational effectiveness programs at all levels of Army schooling and within units should be developed more fully and expanded to address the changing roles of women, their contributions and their future in the Army.

Initially, many of these programs were generated in a time of crisis to change attitudes toward and foster a better understanding of the needs of minority members. Aggressive affirmative action plans were formulated and pursued to ensure equity within the system. However, these programs have focused predominately on the male minority

races with little emphasis given to discriminatory practices toward women or how to be more effective leaders and supervisors of them.

These programs provide the framework within which we can and should direct our efforts to change attitudes and achieve complete integration. Such educational efforts would not only serve to reorient women concerning their expanded roles and expectations of them as soldiers, but also would allow a forum for male commanders and staff to air their concerns and draw on the experiences and ideas of others in a common effort to manage women more effectively and provide them opportunities for optimum professional growth.

Coping with problems of pregnancy, rape and menstruation is an experience foreign to most male commanders and noncommissioned officers. Consequently, there appears to be a hesitancy to meet the issues head-on. Pregnancy appears to cause the greatest concern because of its effect on readiness, deployment and unit mission. However, there is little evidence that much is being done by commanders to discourage, prevent or terminate pregnancies within their units.[7]

I found this to be true in a previous assignment, when a local WAC company was abolished and the women were integrated into male units. Commanders were at a loss on how to deal with the pregnancy situation. The matter was finally put before the installation human resources council for resolution. As a result, an educational program dealing with human sexuality was initiated for both male and female personnel.

Although commanders may be reluctant to address this issue, it must be faced and should be dealt with at the unit level with the full support of commanders at all echelons. Professional people, such as doctors, psychologists and clergy, are available to assist commanders. These resources should be used in developing and presenting an aggressive and continuing educational program to both men and women, for men also have a role to play in this problem.

Seminars and unit training sessions should address precautions to prevent pregnancy, termination of unwanted pregnancies and the responsibilities of individuals to the Army, as well as personal difficulties they may encounter should they elect to continue on active duty while pregnant.

Commanders and medical personnel are on the same team and should work together closely in determining when pregnant soldiers can no longer perform their duties. There is a point in time when they will become incapacitated, but pregnancy should not be an excuse to remove women from the work force, to use them out of their MOS unnecessarily or to put them on extended leave early when medical conditions do not warrant such action. An unemotional and realistic approach could do much to alleviate the heartburn and consternation associated with the nonproductivity of pregnant soldiers.

This type of training also provides the vehicle to educate personnel on the subject of menstruation. Too often, male leaders and supervisors excuse women from performing duties during their menstrual cycle because of a lack of knowledge of this physiological function. As brought out in the MAX-WAC study:

. . . this is a symptomatic indicator of a larger obstacle to full utilization of women — generalized ignorance of female capabilities fostered by cultural traditions.[8]

Such ignorance must be overcome on the part of both sexes to dispel outdated myths and taboos and reduce unnecessary lost duty time.

Rape is another subject with which the commander must be knowledgeable. He must be aware of the legal aspects of this crime and what to do in rape situations involving his women soldiers, whether substantiated or not. Rape crisis and prevention training requires continued emphasis. Both men and women must be educated as to the psychological and psychical trauma associated with this type of crime, as well as the resultant legal actions ensuing from it. Here, again, commanders should use the resources available: the medical staff, staff judge advocate, chaplain and provost marshal among others.

I believe the whole subject of human sexuality has been avoided, to a large extent, because we have been socially conditioned to do so. However, interviews with personnel at all echelons of command and staff indicate that more training and education is required in this area.

Fraternization is another problem which can be expected to grow as more women come into the Army unless we take positive and immediate steps to deal with the issue before it becomes a crisis. Many problems inherent in fraternization revolve around the difficulty in fulfilling leadership responsibilities when officers or noncommissioned officers establish close social liaisons with subordinates.

Preferential or adverse treatment stemming from such relationships hinders the ability of the leader to deal with matters objectively and maintain a detached perspective when necessary. These relationships cause a lowering of morale and discipline within a unit because the individuals involved are seen as having a special "in" with the boss and the leader's creditability is weakened.

While non-fraternization is difficult to legislate or enforce, the officer and noncommissioned officer corps have a tremendous responsibility to police themselves and educate junior leaders as to the

necessity for a proper subordinate—superior relationship. Instruction at all levels of Army schooling should emphasize and reinforce the importance of and justification for this long-established military tradition.

Most commanders and supervisors agree that women cause fewer disciplinary problems than men. However, often because of their inexperience or assumed paternalistic role, men have demonstrated a tendency to let women get away with more infractions or expect less from them in the way of performance than they do of men. A perceived or actual inequity in discipline undermines morale and unit cohesiveness, and most women resent "preferential" treatment.

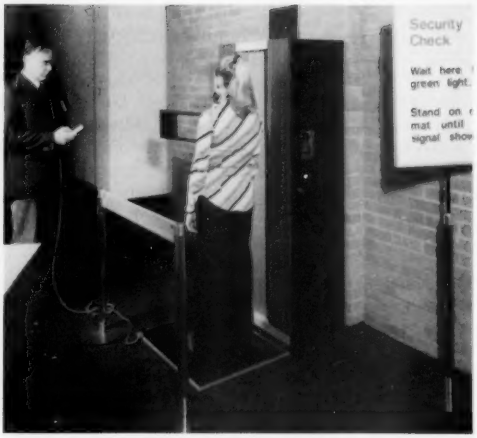
Effective leaders have always let their soldiers know what is expected of them by establishing standards of conduct and performance. When standards are breached, discipline is administered accordingly. In dealing with women, the same process should be followed. All soldiers will respond to firm but fair discipline, and women are no execption.

In the Army, we are problem-solvers, and, while there are no easy answers, none of the issues facing commanders concerning women is insurmountable. The Army has over 35 years' experience with women, albeit in a symbiotic relationship, and is still practicing "reactive management".

Over the last decade, with the expansion of the female force, women have been scrutinized continually and dissected under the microscope, so to speak. Perhaps we have been focusing too long on the wrong things. It has been proven that the woman soldier is capable, intelligent, eager to make a contribution, and is responsive to positive leadership. She has limitations, as does everyone, but we have just begun to train her in a way that her full potential as a soldier can be realized.

Since the Army has legislated an expanded role for women, it is time to focus on reorienting attitudes to facilitate their acceptance as an integral part of the armed forces. Above all, there must be an open and honest commitment on the part of the Army's top leaders to effect proper utilization, acceptance and integration of this vital resource throughout the chain of command. Changes are still required to bring about the development not only of our women soldiers, but also of the male soldiers. We must formulate the synergetic environment for which we must strive. After all is said and done, it's up to you!

1 Information Paper, DAPE-MPT, Subject: "Basic Initial Entry Training (BIET) Test," 3 March 1977 (Lieutenant Colonel Perry), compiled for the Department of the Army Symposium on Women in the Army, Washington, D.C., 11—12 April 1977.
2 *Ibid.*



MODERN DEVELOPMENTS

ENTRY-SCAN
A WALK-THROUGH EXPLOSIVES DETECTOR

FOR a highly security-conscious army it is surprising that we do not go in more for security equipment to ease off on the number of personnel on guard. Many would argue that there is no security as effective as armed personnel on the spot. However, some aspects of security work can be done better by machine. One recent development in this area is the ENTRY-SCAN Walk-Through Explosives Detector.

It is now possible to screen people rapidly with the Entry-Scan without any necessity for a "hands on" search and still be confident of intercepting anyone carrying an explosive device. The Entry-Scan uses a series of fans to sample air from around the person being checked. If the air contains a minute trace of vapour from an explosive device then the alarm is given.

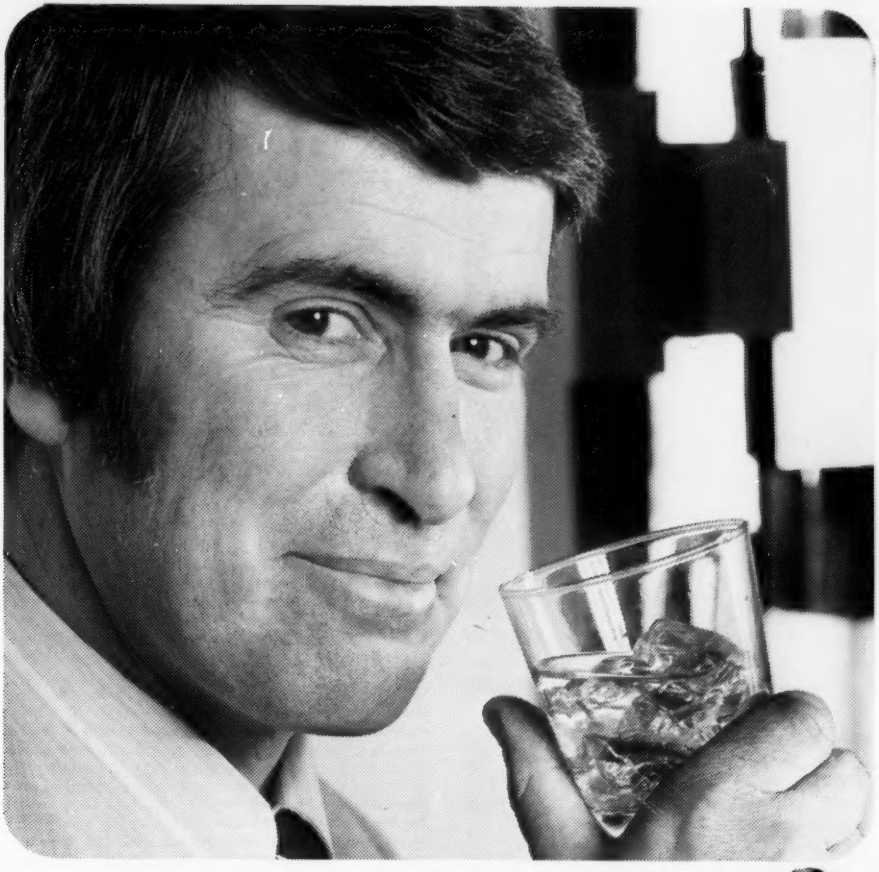
The Entry-Scan may be installed at the entrance to any high risk building or location. With an extension cable it can be operated from a guard box. I understand that the blonde in the photo does not come with the equipment!

COMDT. D. LEE

3 Information Paper, DAPE-MPE-CS, Subject: "Physical Requirements for MOS", 7 March 1977 (Mr. Ruberton), compiled for the Department of the Army Symposium on Women in the Army, Washington, D.C., 11—12 April 1977.
4 *Women Content in Units Force Development Test (MAX-WAC).* US Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences, Alexandria, Va., 3 October 1977.
5 Martin Blumenson, "The Army's Women Move Out", *Army*, February 1978, pp 20—21.
6 *Women Content in Units Force Development Test (MAX-WAC), op. cit., p.IV-10.*
7 *Ibid.*, Part V, p.7.
8 *Ibid.* pp IV-21 and IV-22.

Women's Corps:

'I am pleased to announce that the Government has approved my proposals for the establishment of a Women's Service Corp' – Minister for Defence quoted in "Irish Times" 15 June 1979.



He joined the light brigade

Switch to Paddy And see the light.

ARKS

'The blessing of the colours' by Sir John Lavery (courtesy of the Municipal Gallery, Dublin).

Lieut.-Gen. O'Connell raises tricolour on Water Tower at 12 o'clock, noon, 16th May, 1922.
(Photo believed to be by Joe Cashman.)

This extract from *'A History of Irish Flags from Earliest Times'*, by G. A. Hayes-McCoy, is reprinted with the permission of the publishers, Academy Press. The excellently illustrated and produced book costs £20 which, considering the late Prof. Hayes-McCoy's scholarly text and the 400 black and white photographs, and the full-colour reproductions of 94 flags in colour, represents good value for money. Flags may have appeared here at the battle of Magh Rath, and these early traditions, as well as the heraldic origins of banners and emblems, is fully recounted. From the coming of the Normans there is more evidence on the subject, and soon St. Patrick's Cross, the Harp and the Green appear. Confederate, Jacobite, Ascendancy, Fenian and Rebel flags are described, as well as those of Irish soldiers serving abroad. As the author wrote in the *Preface* 'To my way of looking at it, any flag which was carried by Irishmen to mark them as such, including the flags which were carried in the past by Irish Units in foreign armies and the flags of Irish regiments in the British army, is an Irish flag. I have not been selective of Irishmen, nor have I taken sides: I have merely tried to work all of their flags into a single narration.'

THE IRISH FREE STATE

ONE of the many consequences of the insurrection of 1916 was the adoption of the tricolour as the national flag of the Irish Free State in 1922. The acceptance of the flag, like the establishment of the state, was undramatic. Indeed the word adoption is a misnomer. The tricolour, although it was in use as such since 1922, was not formally acknowledged to be the Irish flag until 1937. The predictions of the songsters were belied. No stars fell and no sun arose when the flag of a free Ireland was hoisted — hoisted without dispute to fly without dispute — over Dublin Castle and the seats of power that, after so many centuries, Britain vacated. Nor had a united Ireland been achieved by the achievement of independence. Ireland was partitioned. Orange and green were sundered.

Tricolour Raised on British Withdrawal

In the beginning the tricolour flag was shown principally by the new army, the guerrilla fighters, hastily uniformed, who took over the military installations from the British forces. Its form was fixed in a vertical arrangement of stripes with the green next the staff and the white in the centre; but as often as not a yellow stripe, rather than an orange one, appeared in the fly. It was the flag of both sides in the Civil War, although, in the confusion, some bewildered citizens thought that they saw a distinction between the yellow stripe of one side — regular or irregular — and the orange stripe of the other. The first Irish flag to be hoisted over Kingstown, where many of the departing British troops embarked and which was soon to be renamed Dun Laoghaire, was an orthodox tricolour with an orange stripe. It is now in the National Museum of Ireland.

The organisation of the Defence Forces of the Irish Free State, or, as the act of August 1923 entitled them, 'an armed force to be called Oglaigh na hEireann' (Irish Volunteers), involved the standardisation of the national flag; gradually,

army usage influenced the Irish public and the orange stripe ousted the yellow in the popular use of the colours throughout the country. The body of the dead Michael Collins, like James Stephens before him, and like very many men who had been killed in the warfare of the period 1919—23, was wrapped in the tricolour. Collins' winding sheet, as Sir John Lavery's picture of the lying in state has recorded, was a tricolour of green, white and orange. Lavery's other picture, 'The blessing of the colours', now in McKee Barracks, Dublin, a picture which shows a kneeling colour-bearer, clad in the first uniform of the Irish army and holding a tricolour flag before a vested ecclesiastic, is an exercise in sentiment which would certainly have appealed to the Young Irelanders; it would have appealed, despite its 'popish trappings', even to Mitchel. But it does not catch for the record the spirit of the moment at which it was painted. It suggests a ceremonial observance that was quite absent from the austere Ireland of the twenties.

International Recognition Begrudged

The use of the Irish tricolour flag in the period 1922—39 was almost entirely confined to the territory of the Irish Free State. To many, perhaps to most, Irish people it was still 'the Sinn Fein flag'. When intrepid Irishmen following one part at least of the practice of the Connaught Rangers mutineers who flew a tricolour in India in 1920, hoisted the Irish flag on their yachts, and even on one occasion hoisted it with the Byrd expedition to the South Pole in 1929, Ireland was momentarily interested, even if the world was unimpressed. But Irish ships still flew the red duster. The usage of international law in the years between the world wars, years in which as far as Ireland was concerned Britannia still ruled the waves, required merchant ships which were owned in the Free State and registered in Irish ports to fly the British red ensign on the high seas. A popular flag book of 1934 incorrectly records the Irish national flag as a tricolour of green, white and yellow, but correctly reports the merchant service flag as the red ensign.[1] Stories are still told of Irish ships having flown the tricolour when in Irish waters but having replaced it by the British flag when they moved outside.

In the early years of the Free State and in the intervals of state building, when the Ministers of W. T. Cosgrave's government were playing a not unimportant part in shaping the British Commonwealth, Kevin O'Higgins, Vice-President of the Irish Executive Council, and Leopold Amery, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, discussed the future of the Irish flag. They spoke of it in relation to an eventual reunification of partitioned Ireland. Amery said on the conclusion of the Imperial Conference in 1926 that there were 'certain sentimental obstacles' in the way of the union of Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. One of them was 'the Sinn Fein flag'. O'Higgins, as reported by Amery, 'felt that the union jack was still regarded by most of his people as a party emblem' — which was putting it mildly — but he 'saw no difficulty in dropping the Sinn Fein flag and having a new flag with say, a harp and crown on a blue ground'. Amery made this statement in a memorandum which he prepared for the Cabinet.[2] How far it was an accurate presentation of Kevin O'Higgins's opinion we do not know. Whatever the considered feeling of the Irish people may then have been regarding the newly introduced tricolour, O'Higgins's reported words can scarcely have reflected the opinion of a nation which had for so long striven to uncrown the harp.

THE 1937 CONSTITUTION

Tricolour Officially Recognised

The constitution of 1937, which declared Ireland to be 'a sovereign, independent democratic state', formally — and rather belatedly — recognised the tricolour. Article 7 states that 'the national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange'. The original constitution of the Irish Free State had made no mention of a flag, so that its recognition, even within Ireland, in the period 1922—37 had depended on 'official usage'.

Merchant and Naval Flags

When, not much more than two years after the enactment of the new constitution, the Second World War broke out and Ireland declared her neutrality, it became immediately necessary to alter the arrangement whereby Irish ships flew the red ensign on the high seas. An order was issued under the Emergency Powers Act of 3 September 1939 making it mandatory for Irish owned vessels to fly the Irish flag. The tricolour thus became the Irish merchant flag.[3] The belligerents did not demur. The organisation of a Marine and Coast Watching Service (reorganised after the war as the Naval Service) at the same time introduced a new Irish flag and — again belatedly — reintroduced another. A masthead pendant of blue and white was designed and established for use on the Irish coastal defence boats — motor torpedo boats — in December 1939. This is a long white pendant or pennant with a blue band which is arranged vertically next the staff; a plain yellow harp device is placed on the blue band. The m.t.bs. flew this pendant to show, in accordance with established international usage, that they were in commission as naval vessels. They also wore the tricolour as the Irish naval ensign. With the reorganisation of the

Irish naval force after that war, this use of the national flag as an ensign was continued. A naval jack was also introduced — in July 1947 — for wear at the jackstaves of the corvettes which constituted the fleet. This jack is the historic green harp flag, a green flag bearing in the centre of the field a plain yellow harp with seven strings.

Presidential Flag

A third new Irish flag was also introduced — in 1945 — a Presidential flag — blue, with a device of a yellow or golden harp. The office of President of Ireland had been created by the constitution of 1937. The Presidential flag is, in fact, a flag of the more than four centuries old arms of Ireland.

Since none of these three modern Irish harp flags is commonly to be seen, however, it would scarcely be correct to regard their introduction as anything more than the merest gesture towards the symbolism of the Irish past. Officially, the Irish mood is still austere. The harp was the sole symbol of the many which once gave delight to Irishmen that survived 1922. Hibernia, with her wolfhounds, round towers and clusters of shamrocks, entered oblivion. They still remain there. The single trefoil which adorns the flag of Aer Lingus, the Irish air line, is a very chaste vestige of the luxuriant growths of bygone years. Indeed, one feels that the real reason for the retention of the harp as the device of state in the disillusioned twenties was this, that it gave satisfaction to display it without the crown.

THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

No change was made in the national flag when the Act which declared the former Irish Free State — Ireland to its English speaking citizens, Eire to Irish men and women who spoke Irish and to the rest of the English speaking world — to be the Republic of Ireland became law in April 1949. In a sense, the tricolour came into its own as 'the republican flag' in that year. Internationally, the Irish tricolour became much more widely known when the Republic joined the United Nations in 1955. A set of regulations which was drawn up officially some years before that provided — once more, belatedly — for the proper use of the flag within the state. But the use of a tricolour flag of green, white and orange is not confined to Ireland; the Irish flag is not now a distinctive one, as it was in the nineteenth century. The flag of India is a horizontal tricolour of orange (it is described as saffron), white and green with the blue Chakra device on the central stripe. The flag of the Republic of the Ivory Coast is a tricolour of orange, white and green. The flag of the Republic of Niger is a horizontal tricolour of orange, white and green with an orange disc on the white stripe.

The flags of other countries attest symbolically the facts of history. The French tricolour records a break with the *ancien regime*, the flag of the United States commemorates the birth and growth of a new nation, the flag of Norway gives visual evidence of a union achieved and sundered, but the Irish tricolour still represents no more than an ideal. It represents the ideal of a united Ireland. That it does so in a manner which seems to assert that the union has been accomplished is resented in Northern Ireland.

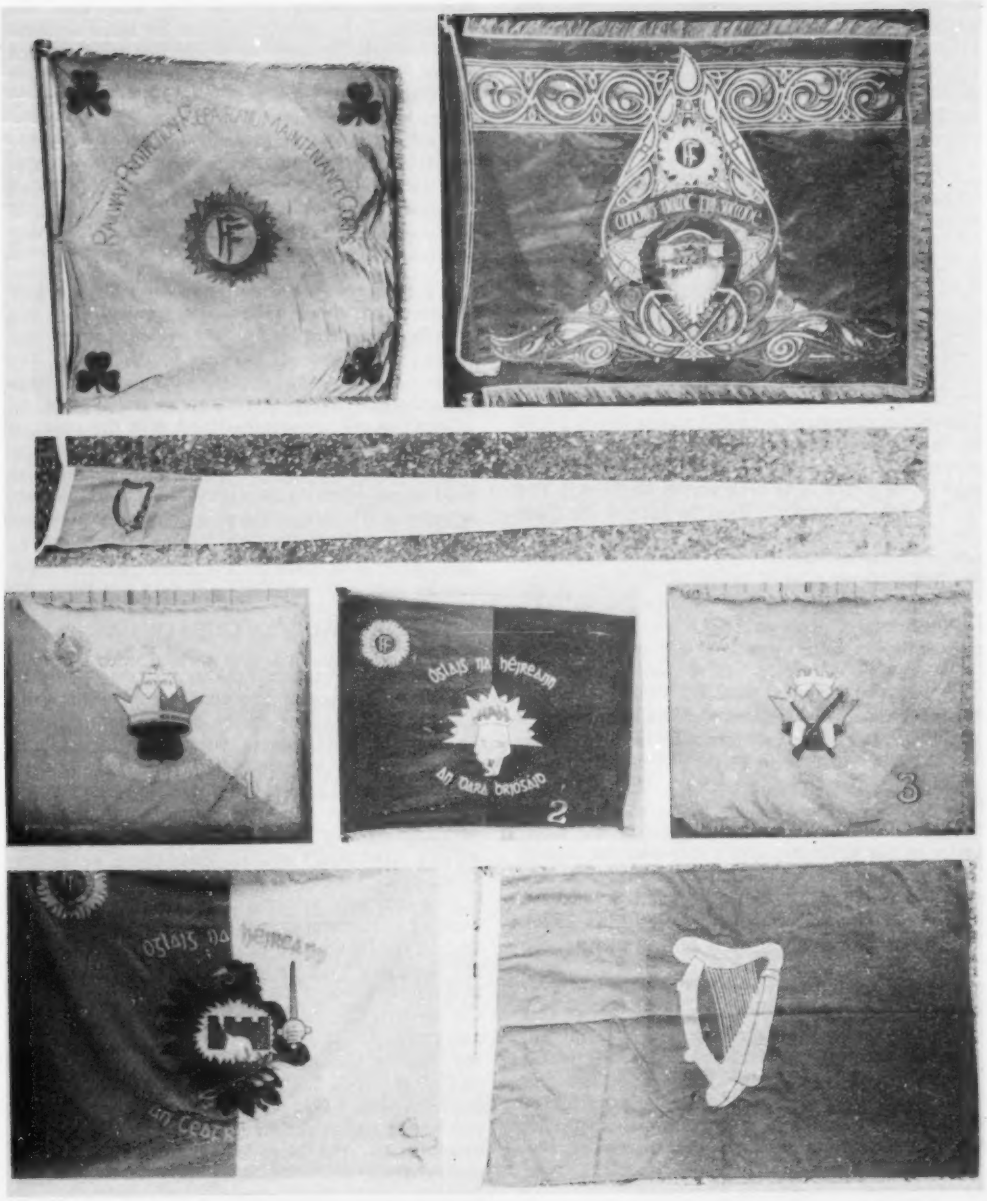
'We are true to our colour, the green', said Thomas Davis, 'and true to our watchword, "Ireland for the Irish". We want to win Ireland and keep it'. But Ireland was not 'won' under the green flag, or by what Davis's contemporary Thomas MacNevin called a 'bloody unfurling of our ancient Sunburst'. When what is now the Republic of Ireland parted from Britain the Irish flag was the tricolour. It has been regarded since as the flag of separatism rather than unity.

How many Irishmen or Irishwomen remembered in the years following 1922, the meaning of the tricolour? How many accepted the implication of Sinn Fein? — ourselves? — or part of ourselves, with the other part excluded? How many could have entered then, or can enter now, into the spirit of these lines of a nineteenty-century poet?:

> Come — pledge again thy heart and hand,
> One grasp that ne'er shall sever;
> Our watchword be — Our native land;
> Our motto — Love for ever.
>
> And let the Orange lily be
> Thy badge, my patriot brother;
> The everlasting green for me,
> And we for one another.
>
> United in our country's cause,
> Our party colours blended;
> Till lasting peace from native laws
> On both shall have descended.

IRISH ARMY COLOURS

The Irish army has been slow to develop a system of unit colours. Nothing shows so vividly the chasm which divides the Ireland of 1914 from the present as the difference between the action of the Provisional Committee of the Irish Volunteers in introducing unit colours for their infantry force and the inaction of the Department of Defence in failing to provide flags for an established army. The army was more than fifty thousand strong during the Civil War, yet the only unit which appears to have provided itself with a colour in 1923 was the transient Railway Protection Repair and Maintenance Corps. This was the first of several flags



Flags of Irish Army and Navy. *Top left* Railway Protection Repair and Maintenance Corps (1923); *right* Regimental colour of 4th Brigade (1954). *Centre* Masthead pendant of the Naval Service; *Below* 1964 unit infantry colours of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades; *Bottom left* 1964 unit colour of 4th Brigade; *right* Naval Jack (Irish Army).

which, lacking official colours, units of the army have themselves sought to supply. It was a very ordinary flag, three feet ten inches by three feet nine and a half inches, in light blue poplin with gilt thread fringe, one side blank; a single shamrock in applique in each corner; the motif of the army badge in gold with green lettered legend in the centre surmounted by the name of the unit in couched metal thread.

Arangements were made for a series of battalion colours in 1931, and at least three of them were made up. These were most elaborate blue flags, heavy with embroidery. They each measured four feet in the hoist by five in the fly and they were fringed with gilt cord. The greater part of the field of each flag was covered with embroidered decoration in the style which was used originally for the ornamentation of metalwork, wood and stone, and for the illumination of manuscripts, in early Christian Ireland — the 'Celtic ornament' or 'traditional ornament' which, because it was felt to be distinctively Irish, was so greatly favoured for all purposes in the Ireland of forty years ago. This was worked in green, light blue and gold thread. The same general pattern was used for each of the three flags. A band of interlinked spiral ornaments ran across the top of the field. A pear-shaped ornament of interlaced strap work provided the centrepiece and was extended on either of its sides in loose, swirling arrangements at the bottom of the flag. A representation of the army cap badge was placed at the honour point, or top of the centre-piece. The inscriptions and central pictorial devices — which were elaborately stylised and were executed largely in silver thread — were different for each flag. The first flag of the three which were completed showed a picture of the struggle between Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and the Palesman, Segrave at the battle of Clontibret in 1595, with the red hand device of the O'Neills; above this was the legend *Lamh dearb abu* (The red hand to victory, or, Up with the red hand); below the picture was the inscription *Cluain Tiobrad 1595* (Clontibret 1595). The second flag showed, in its central picture, the capture by an Irish warrior of Sigurd's raven standard at the battle of Clontarf in 1014, an event which may or may not have occurred; above this was the legend *Badh sonairt ar n-airle* (Let our will be firm); below the picture was the inscription *Cluain Tarbh 1014* (Clontarf 1014). The third flag showed a picture of Sergeant Custume's defence of the bridge of Athlone in 1691; above this was the legend *Conoirg uathath fri sochaide* (The few prevailing over the many); below the picture was the inscription *Atha Luain* (Athlone).[4]

It does not appear that these colours were issued in the early 1930s. They were lost sight of for many years, until 1954, when they were the subject of a General Routine Order of the Adjutant General's Branch by which they became for the time the regimental colours of the 1st, 2nd and 4th Brigades. They were prescribed for issue to these formations in the order in which they are described above. Since they bore no inscriptions which associated them with specific units, this change in allocation was possible. The designs of these flags, in spite of the fact that they commemorate stirring events in Irish history, seem wanting in inspiration. The decoration is incongruous, they resemble wall hangings rather than colours, and the omission of unit numbers and titles is certainly out of keeping with established practice.

A further colour was authorised in 1954, a colour for the cadet school of the military college. This is a blue flag, four feet by five feet in size, fringed and corded in gilt thread. It bears at the base of the field a device of a golden sunburst, or, more accurately, a rising sun. A representation of an officer's sword, unsheathed and with the point of the blade upwards, is placed vertically in the centre of the field. The motto *An rod so romham* (The road ahead of me, a quotation from P. H. Pearse) appears in silver lettering on a golden scroll across the upper part of the field.[5]

BRIGADE COLOURS OF 1964

A decision was eventually taken in 1965 to establish a uniform set of six unit colours, one for each of the six infantry brigades of the army establishment. Designs for these colours were drawn up and the first colour to be completed, that of the 2nd Brigade of the Eastern Command, was carried for the first time in the army parades and marches which formed part of the Dublin celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1916 rising at Easter 1966.

The brigades were assigned two each to the Southern, Eastern and Western Commands. The flags of the 1st and 3rd Brigades, which are those of the Southern Command, are each coloured blue and yellow; those of the 2nd and 6th Brigades — of the Eastern Command — are each coloured blue and green. Those of the 4th and 6th Brigades — of the Western Command — are each coloured blue and white. Each flag shows in the dexter chief, or top right hand corner, a representation of the army cap badge and in the sinister base, or bottom left hand corner, the brigade number. Each has a central device above which appears the inscription *Oglaigh na hEireann* and below which is the title of the brigade.

Following this general pattern, the brigade colours are:

(i) 1st Brigade, Southern Command A flag the field of which is divided per bend, or diagonally, yellow above and blue below, with a centrepiece of a stylised ship with a red hull and white sails encircled by a parti-coloured antique crown of yellow and blue. This device is a combination of the arms of the province of Munster and the city of Cork.

(ii) 3rd Brigade, Southern Command A flag similarly divided but with blue above and yellow below, with a centrepiece of a white tower encircled by a parti-coloured crown as before, but with the colours yellow and blue reversed. A green flag flies from the tower and representations of a rifle and spear, crossed, overlie the remainder of the device. The tower is an adaptation of the devices of the arms of the city of Limerick.

(iii) 2nd Brigade, Eastern Command A flag divided per pale, or vertically, in two stripes, blue and green. The centrepiece shows a rising sun in yellow, on which are superimposed a flaming white tower and a yellow harp device. The sun device is from the Irish Volunteer colours of 1914, the tower is from the arms of the city of Dublin and the harp from the arms of the province of Leinster.

(iv) 6th Brigade, Eastern Command A flag divided as before, but with the colours reversed, green and blue. The centrepiece is a dimidiation of the central device of the Catholic Confederation flag of the 1640s (a white cross within a red circle) combined with a representation of an Irish pike-head, the intention being to show symbols associated with the Kilkenny—Wexford—Waterford area.

(v) 4th Brigade, Western Command A flag divided per pale, blue and white. The centrepiece shows a device of a black eagle, partly dimidiated in that its left side shows a hand holding a dagger. The eagle grasps a furze branch in its talon. There is a stylised representation of a broken bridge, in red, on the eagle's breast. The eagle and dagger-bearing hand are from the arms of the province of Connacht. The bridge is that of Athlone of 1691 fame. The furze is typical of the eastern area of the Command, that is, the midlands.

(vi) 5th Brigade, Western Command A flag divided as before, but with the colours reversed, white and blue. The centrepiece is again an eagle, on which is superimposed a device which combines a white cross crosslet (from the arms of the O'Donnells) and a galley (from the arms of the city of Galway). The furze branch of the 4th Brigade is omitted.

1 E. H. Baxter, *National flags* (1934), p.18.
2 Cabinet Paper 416, 1926.
3 As late as 1936 the owner of an Irish registered ship was fined fifty pounds for flying the tricolour in Liverpool in contravention of the 1894 Merchant Shipping Act, T. McKenna in *An Cosantoir*, xxxiii, No. 4, p.107.

A flag presented to the Volunteers in Celtic Park, Derry in 1914. Designed by F. J. Bigger.

4 *An tOglach*, iv. (new series), no. 2 (June 1931) contains (pp.75ff) the first of a series of four articles entitled 'Battalion standards' by Captain J. E. Nolan. The articles outline 'the incidents which it is proposed to depict on our new Battalion Standards', but make no further mention of the flags. The first article describes the battle of Clontarf: the second (iv, no. 3, September 1931, pp.79ff) the battle of Clontibret: the third (iv, no. 4 December 1931, pp.80ff) Custume's exploit at Athlone: the fourth (v, no. 1, April 1932, pp.77ff) treats of 'MacGeoghegan's heroic attempt to prevent the capture of Dunboy Castle' in 1602. This last flag does not seem to have been made up.

5 G.R.Os. 33 (Cadet School colour) and 34 (Brigade colours), 1954.

Be Yourself

BE YOURSELF. Never try to live other than in accord with your own true nature. That way you will find your own inner harmony, will be far-sighted, understanding – and above all, relaxed and serene.

(Current Events, India)

COMMUNICATIONS COURSE — THE INTERVIEW SITUATION

"No comment" is in fact, comment. That was but one of many lessons to be learnt on a recent course at The Communications Centre in Booterstown Avenue.

The course was run over two days for Press Officers, and every Command had two representatives each, with the Air Corps and Navy also represented.

The principal success of the course was in the invaluable insight it gave into the minds of the press, T.V. and radio reporters. The message was: reporters are only doing a job, and if you respect them professionally, then they will on the whole respect you in the same way, and will respect security restrictions "if based on valid military necessities". This was a very important point highlighted again and again in the two days. The best way to treat the press was with honesty, and that if certain information could not be divulged, then the reasons for this should be made known to the reporters.

Moreover it was also pointed out that the media should be used for getting a point of view across, in this case the good name of the Army. It is only recently that the army is becoming aware of the media and its powers, and I feel that more emphasis should be placed on communications with the media. The army is news whether we like it or not, and therefore the army should be able to deal with the media in a proper professional manner. It can only do this by getting personnel in each Command properly trained by means of such courses as the one under discussion and by placing more emphasis on the role of press officers. The army has a good name with the general public and in many cases all the general public needs is reassurance as to the abilities, skills, and knowledge of the members of the Defence Forces.

Having dealt with the theoretical side of the course the practical side was devoted entirely to the interview (whether T.V. or radio) and the techniques involved, which is of importance to all commanders in operational situations.

The main lessons to be learnt were as follows:—

BEFORE THE INTERVIEW

1 Prepare the positive points you want to make. The interview should be looked upon as an opportunity to get your point of view and that of the army across, and the interviewer as a means to that end.
2 Try to think out in advance of the sort of questions the man in the street is likely to want to ask. Gay Byrne's great success is due in no small respect to his ability to ask the simple question, the question that is on everyone's lips.
3 Make a conscious effort to talk simply and to avoid army jargon or slang, and to explain anything military in as simple a form as possible.

AT THE INTERVIEW

1 Make sure you get the points you have decided on in advance across, otherwise, from your own point of view, the interview will not be a success.
2 Resist being side-tracked. If a question is taking you away from what you wanted to say, then answer the particular question as concisely as you can, and go on with the points you want to make. Remember, that it is you who should dominate the interview, not the interviewer and make sure that you get across your points irrespective of the questions asked.
3 Be truthful. If there are deficiencies, then admit them, do not try to hide them, but then go on and highlight the positive points you want to make.
4 Be yourself and try to be personal. Do not try to change your voice or put on an act as this will not ring through. A story or a personal experience is worth a lot of theorising, therefore in this regard it is worth remembering to talk about the particular and to avoid talking in general terms. By this I mean to talk about a particular incident and to let the audience get the general picture.
5 Remember that attitude is communicated more than information so it is important to have the right attitude to the interviewer, neither hostile nor too chummy, and to try, as far as possible, to understand the position of the audience and to respect it even if it conflicts with your own.

All the interviews were played back and assessed, and it was during these discussions that most of the above points were highlighted.

Once each person grew accustomed to seeing and hearing themselves on the media, I feel a lot was learnt and it was very interesting to see everyone's remarkable improvement between their first and last interviews on the course.

And this I feel highlighted the main point with regard to communications, namely, that there are various techniques involved in dealing with the media and that once these have been put into practice it is possible to get your points across in an effective manner and thereby use the media to your advantage.

For this reason it was generally felt that these courses are invaluable for the army and should be an absolute requirement for officers with senior appointments in the Defence Forces.

It was pointed out that Garda Superintendents and Inspectors had completed similar courses because the Gardai now recognise the importance of the media and the increased role it is likely to play in our lives.

Let not the army shy away from the media as was the attitude in the past, but properly trained in communications let it ensure that its point of view is at all times put properly and efficiently before the people of the country.

CAPT. PETER O'GRADY
Press Officer, Curragh Command.

Features and Photographs

Black and White photographs from all Commands are welcome for publication. Captions should include names of individuals and that of photographer.

Articles for publication on topics of current military interest are also welcomed.

AN COSANTÓIR COMMAND REPS.

E. Comd.	Comdt. M. Minehan, Comd. Hqrs., Collins Bks., Dublin.
S. Comd.	Comdt. B. O'Donovan, S. Comd. Hqrs., Collins Bks., Cork.
W. Comd.	Comdt. F. Cleary, W. Comd. Hqrs., Custume Bks., Athlone.
C. Comd.	Capt. P. O'Grady, Army Records, Curragh Camp.
Air Corps	Comdt. H. O'Donnell, Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnel.
Naval Service	Lt. G. Mansfield, NS, A.H.Q.

AMONG YOUR SOUVENIRS?

Cpl. Francis McDonald

READING through a weekly Stamp Magazine I saw an article of particular interest both to philatelic and non-philatelic people in the Defence Forces. It was titled *'Cyprus. The Irish Contingent"*. It claims that the covers (envelopes) used to send letters home to this Country from Cyprus are scarce and, therefore, worth some money. The Covers of particular importance are those carrying British postage stamps and posted through the BFPO. Others of interest are those bearing Unit Stamps or Cachet. These Covers were used between 1964—1974. It would now be advisable to check through personal belongings to ascertain if you have any of these Covers and if you have my advice to you would be to hold them. They're valuable!

Most people who are established Philatelists are specialists in the hobby. These would include the Single Country specialist or perhaps a group of countries or islands such as South America, The Commonwealth; or the Postal History Specialists. But what constitutes Postal History? Postal History can come from any source of philatecy. I will mention briefly a few examples of Postal History for the benefit of Non-Philatelically minded people. Covers posted during a war, using a post mark or marking which after the war or campaign would be destroyed. Military Covers bearing stamps of one Country overprinted for use in an occupied country; or letters and Covers written during a war bearing a censors markings etc. Some of the oldest and scarcest postal history comes from the period before the introduction of Postage Stamps on May 6th, 1840.

Another interesting aspect of Stamp Collecting is Postmarks. These can be unusual date stamps on envelopes and the caption which accompanies them. These have been known to fetch good prices from dealers and collectors, particularly marks commemorating military events and tattoos.

Errors in Postage Stamps are brought about in the printing process by omission of various things such as watermarks, inscriptions, or colours. These are usually few and far between, often only running to 2 sheets at a time. Some examples are *Virgin Islands,* 1s. value missing, one realised £19,500 in December last! Another error is *Western Australia 1854* issue which shows a swan upside down and known as 'the inverted Swan issue'. A copy of this issue, once belonging to the Duke of Leinster, is now in the National Museum.

Another important aspect of this hobby is overprinting. These are stamps of one country overprinted to commemorate some event, rather than the issue of a new stamp. They can also be used for new currency or for lower values than was

previously issued. In some cases the overprinted stamp is worth more than the first issue. Overprints used in the Commonwealth cover all reigns and events. The earliest one had a military flavour. These were Queen Victoria issues overprinted for military use i.e. 'Army OFFICIAL' or Edward VII overprints 'ARMY OFFICIAL' and 'ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL'. In the reign of Georve V the overprints with military interest were 'WAR TAX' or 'WAR CHARITY'.

Stamps have been used by the military in times of chaos or civil war for functions other than postage. For instance in the American Civil War stamps were used as currency instead of bank notes by the Confederate States. These types of stamps are usually 'rushed' through and are therefore prone to error, for instance stamps issued here during the Civil War are now, because of certain errors, rarer than the 1935 Slot Machine issues. Stamps overprinted to commemorate flights made by fliers of long ago, such as the *BREMEN* issues, are future collectors items.

I started this article by talking about UN Cyprus Covers. I will mention another two U.N. missions from which covers may at some stage become valuable. One is the Irish Contingent in U.N.E.F. between November 1973 and April 1974. Post was sent through C.F.P.O. bearing only the Postmark and no Postage Stamp (I have two in my collection). The other one is UNIFIL, because only the U.N. post mark is being used it will be no harm to have some of these put away for future use as Postal History.

Finally, I would mention some items of Cyprus material worth looking for. These are overprints as follows:

Republic Issues overprints of 1960, U.N. initial involvement in Cyprus overprint (U.N. Crest and 1964), and U.N. resolution overprints on Cyprus of 18 Dec. 1965, preferably on Cover or Covers.

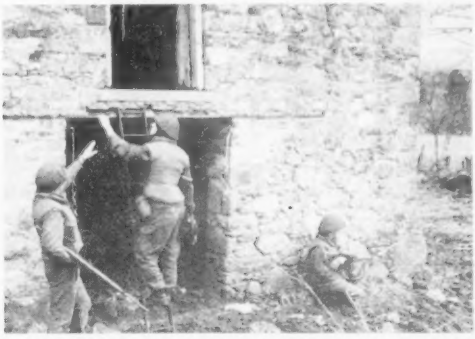
Eastern Command

Recently passed out soldiers from the 2 Bn. with the O.C., 2 Bde., Col. V. Crawford, are L. to R.: Ptes. J. Guinan; J. Nolan; G. Behan, Best Soldier and P. Davis.
(Photo: Sgt. B. Cahill)

Comdt. Terry McNulty who has retired after 29 years service mainly in the Eastern Command. He served overseas with UNFICYP, UNTSO and UNDOF.
(Air Corps photo)

60mm Mortar training at Dundalk. Instructor Sgt. J. Hassett with members of 'A' Coy. and in foreground Cpls. J. Byrne and J. Flynn.
(Photo: Sgt. G. R. Gallagher)

Col. L. P. O'Toole, Director AMC presenting the Director's Trophy and Shield to 2/Lt. P. J. Roche, 11 Fd. Med. Coy, FCA at Cathal Brugha Bks. Lt. Roche won the Inter-unit competition during last year's annual training camp.
(Photo: Sgt. A. Reinhardt)



27th Inf. Bn. personnel during a border search operation. L. to R.: Cpl. W. McKeever; Ptes. B. Murray and J. Curran.
(Photo: Sgt. G. R. Gallagher)

27th Inf. Bn. Catering Staff prior to a function in the NCOs Mess at Dundalk Bks. L. to R.: Pte. L. Leathem, Cpl. J. Morrissey, Ptes. G. Hannon, J. Shelley and P. Murphy.
(Photo: Sgt. G. R. Gallagher)

Western Command

Recently promoted Bty. QM T. Gavin, 13 Bty. 5 FAR Tuam.
(Photo: Sgt. Loughnane)

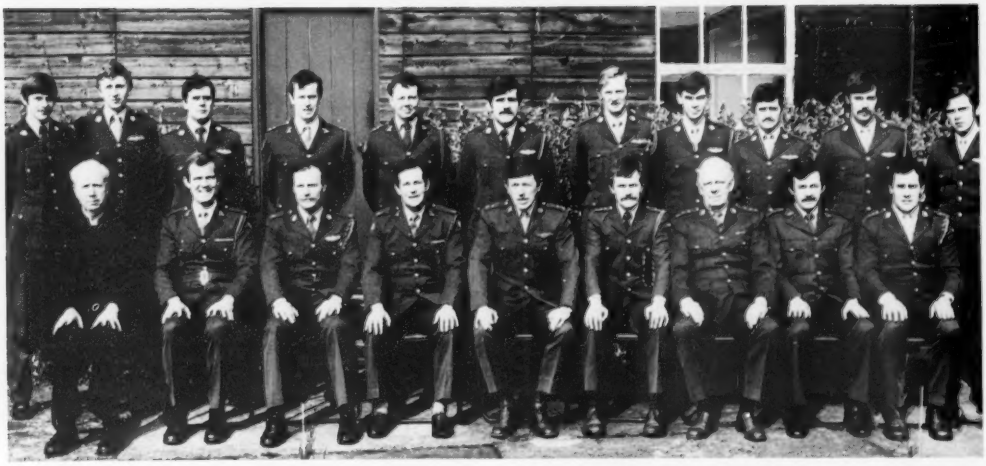
Recently promoted BQMS P. Coyle, 4th Bty, 5th Fd. Arty. Regt. A native of Cootehill, Co. Cavan, he is now living in Galway.
(Photo: Sgt. Loughnane)

Cpl. V. Gilmore in action for 1 Inf. Bn. against the Combined Services, Athlone, in W. Comd. football final. The score was 10 points to 1.6 in favour of the 1st Bn.
(Photo Capt. O'Flachain)

Custume Bks. Pitch & Putt Sports Star of the Year Sgt. T. Revans, 6 Bn. (left) is here being presented with the Army Cup, which he also won, by C/S J. O'Leary. C/S J. Kelly, 4 Garr. M.P.C., Club Secretary, is on right.
(Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Pte. J. Meehan from Clara, Best Soldier in his platoon at a Passing Out Parade in the 6 Bn. Custume Bks., Athlone.
(Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

Air Corps



Recent picture of Officers of Air Station, Gormanstown. **Front Row, L. to R.:** Fr. P. Flynn, Comdt. Hearns (27 Bn.), Comdt. Mulligan, Comdt. McMahon (8 Bn.), Lt./Col. Cranfield, O/C Gormanstown; Capt. P. Hayes; Capt. Foley, Capt. O'Sullivan (8 Bn.), Capt. Lipsett. **Back Row, L. to R.:** Lt. Purcell; Lt. O. Murphy; Lt. Hickey; Lt. Lynch (27 Bn.), Lt. B. Carroll (27 Bn.), Lt. Cotter; Lt. J. O'Sullivan; Lt. J. Duffy; Lt. H. O'Keeffe; Lt. Scanlon; Lt. O'Dwyer.
(Air Corps Photo)

A recent picture of NCOs of Air Station Gormanstown. **Front Row, L. to R.:** CQMS Cooke, Sgt. Hearty, Sgt. Collins, Sgt. Mulhall, Sgt. Weldon, Sgt./Maj. Purcell, Cpl. Crosby, Sgt. Weldon, Cpl. Lally, Cpl. Stoffors. **Back Row, L. to R.:** Sgt. Murray, Cpl. Fitzpatrick, Sgt. Murphy, Cpl. Byrne, Cpl. McInerney, Sgt. Dorogh, Cpl. Molloy, Cpl. Bailey, Cpl. Brunt, Cpl. Dunne, Cpl. Coates, Cpl. Doran, Sgt. Carton, Sgt. Elmore, Cpl. Fallon, Cpl. O'Callaghan, Cpl. Morgan, Cpl. Kearns, Cpl. Smith, Cpl. Geraghty, Cpl. Collins, BQMS Cunningham.
(Air Corps Photo)

Naval Service

Class Alpha who passed out recently at Haulbowline. *Front L. to R.:* Rec. R. Seward; Ensign G. O'Flynn, Training Officer; Fr. W. O'Brien, C.F.; Comdr. L. Brett, OC; Lt. G. Ryan, NS; L/S R. Byrne, Instructor; Rec. J. Sheehy. *Back:* Recs. T. O'Donnell;) F. Jeakins; K. Keating; W. Scanlon; J. Murphy; J. Price; W. O'Boyle; C. Griffin; P. Murphy and W. Ireland.
(Naval Service photo)

L.E. Aoife prior to launching at Verolme Cork Dockyard, Cobh.
(Naval Service photo)

Capt. P. Kavanagh, CONS during the Annual Naval Exercise in April.
(Naval Service photo)

S/Lt. W. Tubbritt, S.M. receiving Waterford Glass from Mr. J. Walsh, Sales Representative, Waterford Glass. Also included is Lt. Cdr. M. Burke, S.M. Four crystal bowls were presented by Waterford Glass Ltd. for presentation to the Lord Mayors of Oslo, Fredrikshaun (Denmark), Hamburg and Amsterdam, during the trip by *L.E. Deirdre.*
(N.S. photo)

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ORIENTEERING IN AN CÉAD CATH

ORIENTEERING has come alive again in the 1 Cn. Cois after a lengthy hibernation, giving the young and the old a chance to show their talents. What most people fail to recognise is that it is not enough just to be fit or young to compete well in orienteering events; one must also have a knowledge of the basic skills of map-reading. This was proved when, on the 28th March last a battalion orienteering event was held at Kinnity, Co. Offaly, organised by Lt. Dermot O'Connor and, with Sgt. Coakley helping to set a fair but demanding course. Cpls. Doyle, Mulkerrins, Forde and O'Connor of 'A' Coy won the team event with S/S Scanlon the individual competition. Cft. M. Walshe came 3rd and showed that map-reading techniques can easily compensate for by-gone youth!

Two teams went forward to the Command Event, also in Kinnity:

Team 1 (Capt.) Lt. O'Connor; Capt. Sweeney; Sgt. Murphy; Cpl. Higgins.

Team 2 (Capt.) S/S Scanlon; Cpl. Doyle; S/S Keogh and S/S Cassidy.

Team 1 competed as individuals on day 1 and Sgt. Murphy easily outclassed all others to win the novice individual title. On day 2, Team 1 again beat all other competitors to win the W. Command Novice event with Sgt. Murphy saving the day. Lt. Col. D. Sweeney presented the team with their prizes including a new trophy presented by *An Cosantóir* for the first time. Despite many map-corrections made along the way to celebrate the orienteering teams reached Galway much later but triumphant!

On May 8th and 9th the 1 Cath Cois entered a team for the All Army Orienteering competition novice event in Kilworth, Co. Cork. The team consisted of:—

(Capt.) Lt. O'Connor; Capt. Sweeney; Sgt. J. Murphy; Sgt. C. Tierney; Cpl. Higgins.

Training had been intense despite the pressures of work and duties and it included taking part in civilian competitions in Mountbellew and Monivea, Co. Galway. Unfortunately the 1 Cath Cois failed to take the team prize but Capt. Pat Sweeney came 2nd in the individual event. It was very close, Capt. Sweeney being beaten by only 1 minute. On day two our relay team coming joint 3rd with the 3rd Bn.

A tired but well satisfied team returned West that night. Our successes upon taking the field again in Orienteering competitions prove that as regards orienteering the West is truly awake.

D. O'C.

Brig. Gen. J. M. Stewart making a presentation on her retirement to Miss Eileen Clynes, Comd. Hqrs., Custume Bks., Athlone.

(Photo: Sgt. P. Devaney)

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'Tá an stair beo arís, arsan *IRISH TIMES* faoin seó seo de na Fórsaí Cosanta ...

AN TATÚ MÓR MÍLEATA, 1935

Cathal Ó Sándair

Cén sórt saoil a bhí ann thiar sa bhliain 1935 nuair a chinn ár bhFórsaí Cosanta ar thatú míleata a reachtáil ag fearann Chumann Ríoga Bhaile Átha Cliath, Droichead na Dothra? Ní úsáidfí airgead poiblí ar bith: na fórsaí féin, go príobháideach, a íocfadh na costais, agus rachadh an brabach go léir chuig cumainn charthanachta na bhfórsaí.

"Cogadh taobh istigh de sheachtain!" bhí David Lloyd George ag rá maidir leis an ngéarchor Aibisíneach.

"Guaiseanna nua cogaidh san Eoraip – an Ghearmáin agus an Liotuáin," a bhí mar chinnlíne, freisin.

Bhí conspóid, chomh maith, idir an tAontas Sóivéideach agus an Pholainn. Hitler ar an nuacht le hóráid do na Naitsíthe. Costas an "Naíonáin" Ford – £135, agus bhí Mícheál Ó Maoláin (ar Árainn) ag scríobh sna nuachtáin faoi Ghaeilge Árann.

Bhí an "Theatre Royal" nua ar tí oscailte i mBaile Átha Cliath. Ó na clódóirí, bhí cúpla leabhar nua Gaeilge i ndiaidh teacht i lámha na léirmheastóirí, "An Sagart Óg" agus "Na Sealgairí Óga."

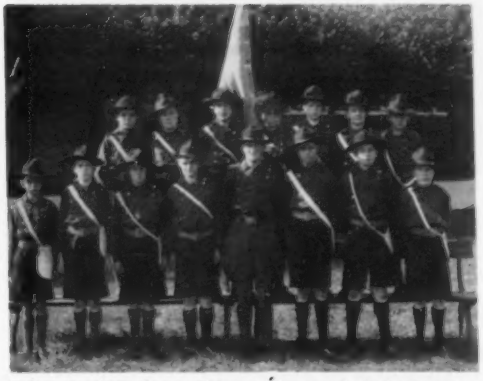
"An líon is mó de cheoltóirí míleata riamh le chéile in Éirinn," gheall an Maor-Ghinearál Mac Néill i gcaint ar Radio Éireann, 8 Meán Fómhair, 1935, agus é ag cur síos ar aidhmeanna agus ar chlár an Tatú.

Bheadh naoi gceolbhanna míleata ann – 250 fear. Sheinnfeadh siad – i measc neart eile – cóiriú nua ar cheol céilí leis an gCoirnéal chúil Fritz Brasé: banna céilí de 250 a bheadh ann ar feadh scaithín!

Ag Droichead na Dothra, ón Máirt go dtí an Satharn, 17-21 Meán Fómhair, 1935, rinne na Fórsaí Cosanta maith do ghealladh an Mhaor-Ghinearáil. Ba é seo i mo dhiaidh, go hachomair, an clár: Réamhcheol; Parád Míleata: Airm in Éirinn trí na hAoiseanna (éidí arna ndearadh ag Mícheál Mac Liammóir); Parád Dheireadh Lae; Gleacaíocht Sokol (an Leifteanant Joseph Tichy ón tSeicslóbhaic a mhúin); an Sáirséalach ag Baile an Fhaoitigh; Gleacaíocht na gCoisithe; Breacadh Lae Cásca – 1916 in Ard-Oifig an Phoist; Fíor-Mháirseáil; Ceann Cúrsa: Slógadh an Náisiúin.

"Riamh cheana ní fhaca mé ceolbhannaí míleata ag máirseáil chomh foirfe," scríobh léirmheastóir amháin ar na nuachtáin.

San ionsaí ar "Ard-Oifig an Phoist," léiríodh buachaillí nuachtáin, turasóirí, fear dall, lasmuigh den áras roimh ré. Ghlac aon duine déag de shean-Chumann na mBan páirt sa ghníomh seo. Bhí "Ard-Oifig an Phoist" leath a fíormhéide, agus í mar a bhí roimh an Éirí Amach. Bhí Caisleán Bhaile an Fhaoitigh, freisin, an-réalaíoch. Ba chorraitheach loinneach an radharc Ard-Oifig an Phoist faoi thine, lámhach na bpiléar agus toirneach na mórghunnaí, an garastún ag canadh "Wrap the Green Flag Round Me, Boys," agus tréanbholadh gunna-phúdair san aer.



Grúpa de dhaltaí mar Fhianna Éireann, faoi cheannas an Chaptacin Seosamh Ó Cathail (Joe Cahill as Cahill Motors, Raheny) ag an Tatú Míleata, 1935. Ag iompar an Bhrait (i lár baill ar chúl), tá Liam Ó Loingeacháin (Willie Lenihan), a shaothraigh clú níos déanaí mar dhornálaí.

"Leaschraoladh ó 7.55 go 8.55 p.m. den Tatú Míleata" a bhí ar chlár ár stáisiúin raidió. Ba é an Coirnéal Mícheál Ó hÓgáin an tráchtaire. Cé mhéad isteach chuig an taispeántas seo sna laethanta bagracha réamhchogaidh úd? B'fhéidir suíocháin a chur in áirithe ar 3/6 agus 2/6, agus b'fhéidir dul isteach agus seasamh ar 1/-.

Ar na daoine mórluachacha a bhí sa láthair, bhí an Cúnta Seán Mac Cormaic, Sir John Lavery, Seán Mac an tSaoi, an Coirnéal Ó Bróith.

Maidir le heachtra an tSáirséalaigh, tosaíodh le radharc taobh amuigh de Chaisleán Bhaile an Fhaoitigh, áit a raibh an campa deireanach ag lucht coimhdeachta an lón lámhaigh. Fir bhochta den tír, agus cailín amháin, cuireadh iallach orthu treoracha a thabhairt do na strainséirí. Ach chomh luath agus a bhí an campa eagraithe don oíche, agus an focal faire aici, d'imigh an cailín léi faoi rún. Bhain sí amach campa an tSáirséalaigh, a raibh "Galloping" Ó hÓgáin, Rapaire, mar threoraí aige. Níos déanaí, rinne eolaithe ábhair phléasctha an airm sárobair ag "séideadh in aer" na soláthairtí muinisin.

Thosaigh eachtra "Ard-Oifig an Phoist" le gabháil an árais: Óglaigh na hÉireann, Arm Cathartha na hÉireann, Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, ag dul isteach ann. Ansin, ionsaí Fhórsaí na Coróineach.

Lean dóiteán, agus tost: an Éirí Amach thart. Lámhach ag briseadh ar an gciúnas: na taoisigh á gcur chun báis. An Chairm Dheiridh á séideadh ag buabhall. Ach níorbh é sin deireadh. Go tobann: Reveille! Soilse agus Ard-Oifig an Phoist ina seanriocht, agus céard sin ar folúin sa leoithne? An Trídhathach, go hard buach os cionn an árais!

"Tá an stair beo arís" – mar sin a bhí sé, gan amhras, tráth an Tatú Mhóir Mhíleata, Meán Fómhair, 1935 ....

OBITUARIES

SERGEANT JOHN BYRNE

On Thursday 19th April 1979, ex-Sergeant John (Johnny) Byrne was laid to rest in Balgriffen Cemetery, Co. Dublin, after 10 o'clock Mass in the Church of the Most Sácred Heart, Arbour Hill, Requiescat in pace.

Johnny Byrne was born in Killeagh, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on the 17th October 1907. He joined the Army on the 18th September 1924, and after his period of training in the Recruit Training Depot, Curragh Camp, he was posted to the 18th Inf. Bn. in March 1930. He went to the 2nd Inf. Bn., and from there to the 5th Inf. Bn., where he spent the next 15 years. His final posting was to G.H.Q. Coy from 1946 to 1957, when he retired after 33 years in the Service.

He continued his association with the Army by working as a civilian with the Dept. of Defence in the Central Registry.

Johnny Byrne was a character possessed of a ready wit and good humour at all times. The large turn out of relatives and former army comrades at his funeral was ample testimonial to the esteem in which he was held. We who knew and served with him mourned his passing, and to his wife and family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Ar Dheis De go raigh a Anam. B.N.

COY/SGT. TIMONTY KEEGAN

It was with sincere regret that the many friends and Comrades of Tony Keegan learned of his unexpected death on Monday, 21st May 1979. Tony, who was born in Dublin on the 18th August 1933, enlisted in the Army on 5th November 1958. In Cathal Brugha Bks., having completed his training he was posted to 2nd Inf. Bn. and remained with them until 1969 when he was transferred to McKee Bks. Coy where he spent almost 10 years in "A" adm. Adjutant General Branch. Tony could never refuse a request for assistance which in many cases went above and beyond the call of duty. He was always very good humoured and loyal to his Comrade Soldiers and the Army. His name will be remembered and respected by his many friends throughout the Army, who extend deepest sympathy to his Wife and bereaved family.

MISS MOLLY REYNOLDS

Molly Reynolds who died in April last was a member of Cumann na mBan and was in the G.P.O. during Easter Week 1916. During the Anti-Conscription campaign of the General Election she worked as a typist, and from 1919 to 1921 she worked for Liam Mellowes. For Pre-Truce Service she was awarded a Service Medal, with bar, and she also received the 1916 Medal.

In February 1922 she joined D.O.D. as a Shorthand Typist and served until her retirement in 1959. During the War she travelled as Confidential Typist with the Plans and Ops staff to the major Army exercises, and in 1935 she was involved in the organisation of the Military Tattoo (see above).

May she rest in peace.

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OFFICERS PROMOTIONS — MAY			
Name	**To**	**From**	**To**
Maurice A. Shanahan	Lt. Col.	Dir. Engr.	O/C, H.Q. Dep. Engrs.
Edward J. Sheehy	Lt. Col.	CS's Br. AHQ.	E/O, 5 Bde.
Francis Fleming	Lt. Col.	H.Q., E. Comd.	O/C, 29 Inf. Bn.
Leo P. Buckley	Lt. Col.	Aide to An tUachtaran, Special Staff, AG's Br. AHQ.	Retains Appt.
Daniel A. O'Neill	Lt. Col. (N.S.)	Naval Base	Elec. Engr. (Lt. Cdr.) Naval Base
N.C.O.s PROMOTIONS — MAY			
Purcell C.	R.S.M.	Aircraft Examiner (Fl. Sgt.)	Air Station, Gormanstown
Hensey, S.	CQMS	Clancy Bk. Coy.	5 Inf. Bn.
Walsh, J.	CQMS	H.Q., S. Comd.	H.Q., S. Comd.
Reville, J.	C.P.O.	Naval Base	Elec. (CPO), Naval Base

L.E. Deirdre and L.E. Grainne during Replenishment Exercises off the South coast in April.

(Naval Service photo)

2 Garrison Company,
Supply & Transport Corps,
McKee Barracks,
Dublin 7.

Editor,
An Cosantoir.

Sir,

Earlier this month a driver of this unit found the following in his vehicle after completing a detail:—

1 Set of keys enclosed in leather case.

Could you please publish this information in the hope that the owner could recover keys?

H. MULHERN, Coy/Sgt.

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WHAT THE PAPERS NOTICE

IT'S TOUGH AT THE TOP

Two of our better-known sportsmen, Dermot Earley of Jones's Road and Con Power of Ballsbridge, were singled out for star billing on the *Sunday Independent* and *Evening Herald* respectively.

Steve Brennan in words and Matt Walsh and Tom Burke in pictures featured "The double life of Captain Con Power". Mrs. Power must have been relieved to read on and see that they were referring to his "military duties at his post in McKee Bks. This is the side of the champion which the world has never seen." Well it's all revealed now — "On dark winter nights he can be seen patrolling the barracks or making a snap inspection of the gate guard".

However the good side of life with the Army team is not neglected as Steve tells us that Capt. Power "has been toasted by Lords, honoured by Presidents and dined by Generals". Indeed the sight of Capt. Power and his wife outside his handsome old house in Summerhill (Co. Meath) should act as a spur to all aspiring equestrians.

Dermot Earley was interviewed by Michael Denieffe who wastes no time in telling us bright and early in the first para that "Dermot Earley, the man destined to join the ranks of Gaelic Football immortans, wears the crown of superstar easily".

"And those who envisage the Army Captain as a 'fitness fanatic' will be surprised at his confession "often I hate the thought of going out to train".

Anyone who reads on and finds out the schedule of training "enjoyed" by Dermot and his fellow team member Sean Kilbride won't be a bit surprised.

Michael Denieffe says that "Dermot, who is a qualified P.T. instructor, feels that people in general suffer more from over-eating than over-drinking. People should watch what they eat".

Potential recruits to the G.T. Depot will be glad to read that Dermot is the Adjutant and not on the Q or catering side.

Two interesting articles and as you will have gathered we are mad jealous of the pair of them.

JERUSALEM POST MORTEM

The Jerusalem Post has an interesting article, by no less than 13 "staffers", on the 29th. Report to the Knesset by the State Comptroller of Israel. The word comptroller in this part of the world would denote the Auditor General who keeps an eagle eye on State Expenditure and Audits State Accounts. But the State Comptroller in Israel roams farther afield and would seem to approximate more to that invisible man of our establishment the Inspector General.

Brig. Gen. Redmond O'Sullivan, assistant Chief of Staff, has retired. A native of Kiskeam, Co. Cork, he joined the Army in 1938 and was commissioned in 1939. Posted to the 9 Inf. Bn. he served in the Southern Command holding various appointments in the 4 Infantry Battalion, North Cork Area F.C.A. and 1 Brigade, until 1959. He then came to AHQ, and was appointed Deputy QMG in 1970, he became director of Planning and Research in 1974, and assistant Chief of Staff in 1978. His service overseas was as O.C. 2 Inf. Gp. in the Congo 1963/64, and as O.C. 10 Inf. Gp. in Cyprus 1968.

(Air Corps Photo)

To quote the *Post* the Israeli Comptroller took "his first ever look into the Israel Defence Force's performance in battle during the Litani Operation".

VINCENT O'REILLY

Turf Accountant

Ringsend

SPORTING - RACING

45 Suir Road, Kilmainham

18A Russell Street.

26 Bridge St., Ringsend.

7A Bridge St., Ringsend.

Pte. Brendan Halligan, 2 Inf. Bn., Cathal Brugha Bks., is a model maker. His military models include both soldiers and vehicles.

(Photo: Sgt. B. Cahill)

"Whereas in the past the comptroller had limited himself to checking affairs within the various branches of the I.D.F., this year — with the agreement of Defence Minister Ezer Weizman — he delved into the hitherto off-limits (to civilian eyes) field of the I.D.F.'s conduct of war. His conclusions give the distinct impression that there is much wrong, especially with regard to an almost universal lack of discipline in the carrying out of standard orders, to a point where lives were senselessly lost and expensive equipment wantonly wasted".

The report, according to the *Post*, really gets down to detail, for instance "27 of the tanks sent into the fray were neutralised on the first day of battle — in 21 of 27 cases the tanks were rendered useless because of poor judgement by commanders failing to carry out standard practice and relying on improvisation instead".

" — he finds in a check of a random Brigade, which had conducted call-up practices seven times in the nine months prior to the operation, some 150 soldiers could not be found on the eve of the operation — because their call-up papers never reached them, and when it was decided to telephone them, the roster was found to be completely out of date".

And finally a Mil Col. memo — "Another example concerns 20 senior officers from the National Defence College and three pilots who, against express instructions, went on a flying tour of the area during the fighting and inadvertently landed just a few hundred metres from a raging battle".

A real war at last!

SNAKES ALIVE

St. Patrick's Day seems a long way back but it is worth delving into the past to record part of General E. A. Erskine's address to the 44th Irish Battalion on that day. Among some very complimentary remarks he said, according to the *Litani*, "Today is St. Patrick's Day. Gentlemen, my information is that St. Patrick, despite popular belief was not an Irishman nor was he a Ghanaian but a Welshman, who was captured by the then hostile Irish; subsequently, he succumbed to the charm of the Irish people and country, and identified himself completely with them. He is reputed to have, in his divine power, banished all snakes from Ireland, and snakes come in many forms. Snakes symbolize the problems of life. We in UNIFIL would be delighted with a St. Patrick on our staff. I presume this would mean another Irish staff appointment. However, in the absence of a St. Patrick, we must continue the struggle."

Nicely put, but more scorpion than snake. The sting was in the tail. However, if you are seeking a staff appointment in UNIFIL and St. Jude has not been co-operative why not try St. Patrick.

SWINGING THE LEAD

The man of the moment in May, in the athletic field at least, was hammer-thrower, Pte. Sean Egan. He was named Sports Personality of the Week in the *Irish Press* and according to reporter Jimmy Meagan "it is an honour he fully deserves".

As the report said:

"If coache Ebe Gaerde's forecast comes true, hammer thrower Sean Egan will be contesting the final stages of the event in next year's Moscow Olympic Games.

It was an indication of the progress that the dedicated Egan has made since he decided to move to West Germany some 18 months ago.

His stay in West Germany is being subsidised by the Department of Defence who opted to finance Egan after an offer of a scholarship by Cement Roadstone early last year."

Tom O'Riordan was also enthusiastic. Under the heading "Giant throw for big Sean" he wrote:

"For the first time in 19 years an Irish athlete other than a runner is on the fringe of world class. It comes in an event where Irishmen were the pioneers in its development, the hammer throw. And the man who has made the giant step forward is 22-years-old Sean Egan, the big red-haired Army private, who added quite a colossal 8ft. 5ins. (2.56 metres) to his own Irish record in Germany over the weekend.

Egan, who broke John Lawlor's 18 year old National mark with 215ft. 1in. (65.56m) at Belfield last July when he won the Irish Championship for the first time, put the benefit of a long coaching and training programme in Germany to very significant use when he unleashed the 16 lbs. steel ball to a best of 223ft. 5ins. (68.10m) with the best of six throws at a meeting in Darmstadt."

It must be a big worry for someone receiving specialised full-time training like this that he will not be able to produce the results expected of him. Sean Egan is certainly repaying all the efforts made on his behalf and making the way easier for those who will follow in his footsteps, we hope. In modern athletics this seems the only way.

RECRUITING

In the deep South the local newspapers have been devoting a fair amount of their valuable space to articles on Army Recruiting. No doubt the local recruiters are suitably grateful particularly in Limerick.

The Limerick Leader without revealing any military secrets said "There may be 200 vacancies in the Army in Limerick and Clonmel — 12th Batallion territory — at the moment". Perhaps we should send a copy to Senator Whittaker. *The Leader* continues, "But even when those (vacancies) are filled, the Army carefully examines each man's file to see how he can be made an incomparably better man, educationally or physically, during his three years in the steadiest job going".

The *Southern Star* also carries a full article with many photographs. It concludes "All in all, Army life holds many attractions as a career for the modern young man. The many advantages outlined above and the very distinct possibility of active service with a U.N. Peace Keeping Force surely emphasises the great job satisfaction that is to be derived from service in today's Army.

The *Limerick Weekly Echo* in its article takes pride in a local Army Sportsman, "Private Tony De Loughrey who has just returned from the United States, where he represented Ireland in the International contest.

The Army is truly a man's life with good conditions, pay and promotional prospects — could it be for you?" asks the *Echo.*

"The battalion intelligence section are working on it."

From *Evening Press,* May 25th 1979.

FAINTING BY NUMBERS

Below is part of a circular issued by the Canadian Army, for it's troops in West Germany. It describes the proper way to faint. That is, in a smart, uniform and soldier-like manner, acting on the haon and pausing on the dho, thre.

"If the worst comes to the worst and he must faint, a soldier should fall to the ground under control.

To do so, he must turn his body approximately 45 degrees, squat down, roll to the left and retain control of his weapon."

Also advised: 'To avoid the possibility of fainting, a soldier should make sure he has had breakfast on the morning of the parade.'

The circular states, 'Any soldier not conscientious about falling unconscious and does not comply with the above instructions will be charged.'

In future times, Depot Squares will echo with commands like:—

'On laimh chle — laige laithreach'.

CPL. COLMAN DOYLE
Survey Coy. C.O.E.

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BETTER LATE

When Volume 1, No. 2, *Bulletin of the Army Signal Corps* arrived recently we wondered how we had missed the first number. On reading No. 2 we discovered that No. 1 was produced in 1929. even John Slye wouldn't have a copy. However according to the foreword by D. Signals, Cor. Eamonn O Brian, 'A copy of the original Bulletin is in the Signal Corps Museum'. It is encouraging to know that such historic documents are being preserved somewhere. Whatever happened to that Army Museum we heard so much about?

In his message the Director of Signals said:

'I would like to congratulate those who proposed resumption of publication and express my thanks to Comdt. J. F. Brennan, School Commandant, Army School of Signals, and his staff for undertaking the task of printing and publication. He deserves our complete support in the continuation of this work.

'I wish the *Bulletin* a long life and I hope that with the assistance of all members of the Army Signal Corps it will continue to be a source of Corps news, Corps views and I hope amusement for many years to come.'

Among the interesting articles is one on the current marvel featuring so often in British Election Speeches — the Microprocessor. According to some gloomy predictions if these things are widely introduced we will all become redundant — in other words we'll have had our chips. The Signals Bulletin is more optimistic — "the steam engine didn't destroy men's ability to work hard and the 4 minute mile was achieved long after the invention of the motor car".

On Communications the article had this dubious Boon to offer — 'With the aid of a chip your home telephone can double as a burglar alarm, a fire alarm or an intercom. Beginning next year residents of certain U.S. cities willbe able to carry their telepones about with them and even make and receive calls whilst walking along the streets, thanks to a microprocessor unit which controls the cord-less lightweight 'phone.'

So on some fateful future Wednesday you may be sizing up a vital putt on the 16th, the phone in your golf bag will ring and the Orderly Room Sgt. will present the C.O.s compliments — and the game will be up.

CARAVANS

Comdt. Arthur Cronhelm featured in the News not for his engineering expertise but for his connection with an outdoor activity which faces an uncertain summer — caravaning. Arthur is Chairman of the Leinster centre of the Caravan Club, an organisation with close on 200,000 members in these islands. No doubt he will be busy answering queries about the petrol situation here from would-be overseas visitors, if they can get in touch with him.

Comdt. Cronhelm's family have associations with Wesley College since its inception when a Cronhelm was one of the founder pupils. A son is upholding the family name in Wesley today while his father is President of the Old Boys Union. Upholding the Army link is son Brian, a Lieutenant serving on the Border.

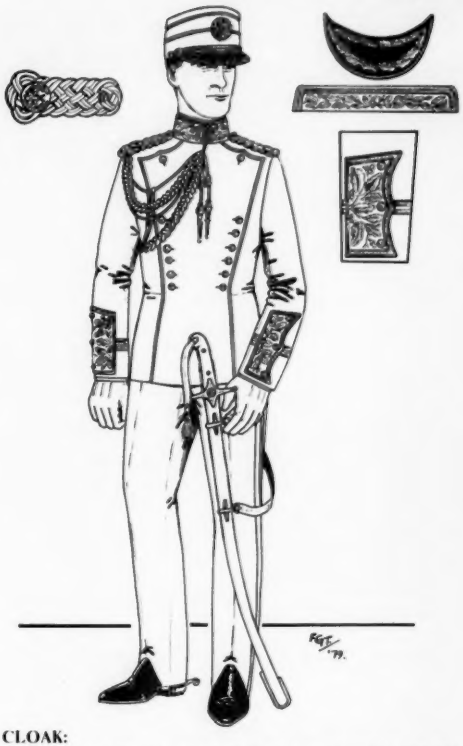
F.C.A. Shoot Southern Command
Winners of the Falling Plates Competition held recently at Kilworth ranges were the 11th Bn. with a time of 26 seconds. L. to R., **Back Row:** Lt. M. McCarthy, Cpl. P. Feen and Pte. L. Crowley. **Front Row:** Pte. W. Mullins, Sgt. J. O'Brien and Pte. D. O'Brien. Cpl. Feen, C. Coy, 11 Inf. Bn., also won the Ind. Rifle Competition. (Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

The Southern Command Shoot was held recently at Kilworth Camp and the winners of the GPMG Team were the 12th Bn., Limerick. L. to R.: Cpl. Browne; Lt. Col. Hartigan, O.C., 12th Bn.; and Cpl. McMahon. Cpl. McMahon also won the GPMG Ind. Cpl. Browne came 3rd in the Ind.
(Photo: Cpl. D. Magennis)

UNIFORM SECTION : No. 3

F. Glenn Thompson

GENERAL OFFICERS' FULL DRESS UNIFORM, 1935—1955



The basic colours of this uniform were black, scarlet and gold.

SHAKO:

Black whipcord, front 5" high and back 3½" high. The crown was of scarlet facing cloth which overlapped the sides to the extent of ¼"; the seam was covered by a row of 3/16" gold Russia braid. On the crown was a line of black tubular cloth ½" from the edge, and, on the centre of the crown was a gold wire interlaced design. Half way down the side of the shako was a line of scarlet piping. The Army Cap Badge in gold wire, the star edged in scarlet thread; the centre portion consisting of the belt and the F.F. monogram was raised on scarlet silk. All this workmanship was on a ground of scarlet facing cloth. The chin-strap of twisted gold cord with two runners, was held in position by two small gold buttons crested with the Army Badge. Black patent leather peak 2⅛" deep with a row of gold oak leaf embroidery around the upper and lower edges.

TUNIC:

Black whipcord. The collar of scarlet facing cloth with slightly rounded corners was embroidered in gold with oak leaves and acorns; the top and front edges of the collar were embroidered with two rows of gold cords with a row of sequins between them. A white linen collar showed 1/16". The front of the tunic was made with a full length plastron with two groups of six large gold buttons 1¼" apart and by one similar button placed at the centre point of the top of the plastron. The buttons bore the harp and the letters "I.V.". Each side of the plastron at the top was made with three equally spaced points and hollowed ½" between the points. The edges of the plastron were piped with scarlet facing cloth. The back of the tunic was plain with 4" vents in each side seam. The cuff consisted of an embroidered patch and two bands of embroidery similar to that on the edge of the collar. The patch was embroidered in gold oak leaves and acorns and edged with two rows of gold cords with a row of sequins between them, on the three off sides and by a single row at the forearm. The embroidery on the patch was worked on scarlet facing cloth. There were two bands of embroidery on the cuff, ¼" apart and this space was inset with scarlet facing cloth. The embroidery of these bands were worked on the sleeve of the tunic and not mounted on a separate piece of cloth. The patch was 6½" high at the forearm, 7¼" high at the outer edge and 3¼" wide at the points. The patch was hollowed ½" between the points and was placed ¼" above the bottom of the sleeve hand. A small gold button was plugged at each point of the patch. White linen cuffs showed 1/16" and white doeskin or buckskin goves were worn. The epaulettes were made of interlaced gold cord with broad bases 3½" wide and were fitted to the tunic by a screw button. Major-General's insignia consisting of crossed swords encircled by a laurel wreath were worn on the epaulette; the crossed swords were embroidered in silver wire, the laurel wreath in gold wire, all on a cirular scarlet cloth patch. The wreath was 1¼ in diameter. This item of rank insignia was introduced specifically for these uniforms. The aiguillettes, worn on the right shoulder were made of gold cord and consisted of two knotted cords, terminating in gold tags 3½" long. The rear knotted cord was 28" long and the front cord 15" long; the two loops of single cord, the front one being 18" long and the rear one being 18" long. The two knotted cords and the front single loop (after the latter had been passed through the rear single loop which had been brought under the arm-pit) were securely fastened together and had a 1" loop of light gold cord for attaching the aiguillette to a concealed hook at the base of the collar in the centre of the plastron.

OVERALLS:

Black barathea cloth with two scarlet stripes ⅝" wide and ¼" apart. Boots: Black full or half Wellingtons or black elastic sided Alberts were worn, fitted for nickel steel box spurs.

CLOAK:

The cloak of black facing cloth hung down to within 10" of the ground. The collar was of black velvet. The clasps and chain were gold. Lining of scarlet silk. The cloak was worn thrown back over the left shoulder to show the scarlet lining to effect and to carry the sword unhindered.

SWORD:

The hilt which contained the Army Badge and the scabbard were brass. The sword slings, suspended from a belt under the tunic were made of scarlet Morocco leather 1" wide and faced with ⅞" gold Shamrock lace. The sword knot of gold Shamrock lace terminated in a heavy blunted acorn. There was one exception — Major-General Michael Brennan, who was Chief of Staff from 15th October 1931 until 28th January 1940, carried a special pattern sword; which was in fact a presentation sword, as illustrated. This sword was of the Mameluke pattern and had a white bone hilt with gilt studs and a gilt cross guard, which contained the General Officer's insignia in miniature in the centre. Each side of the hilt was re-inforced with a strip of gilt metal decorated with Celtic design. The sword knot was suspended from an aperture at the top of the hilt. In this case the gold lace was not of the usual Shamrock pattern but of a chequered design, terminating in a heavy blunted acorn. The blade of nickel steel was engraved in gold. The scabbard with a blunted tip, was brass.

Sources: Adjutant General's Provisional letter of 5th February, 1936; Quartermaster General's "Specifications of 1st December, 1937. The Actual Uniform and Equipment".

LETTERS TO EDITOR

Columb Bks.,
Mullingar.

ARMY FOLKLORE

The Editor
An Cosantoir

Sir,

By a remarkable coincidence, I had almost completed an article for *An Coasntoir* entitled 'The Case for Military Folklore' when, lo and behold, there appeared in the April issue of the journal a fine article on the subject by Col. L. Verhoeff of the Royal Netherlands Army.

The Colonel's part of Europe has always looked with an affectionate eye towards this island (have you noticed the marks they give us in the Eurovision Song Contest?) and his polite suggestions are well worth noting.

My article contained many of the points mentioned by Colonel Verhoeff but its big query remains — where should Irish military folklore begin?

A Sunday newspaper columnist recently took exception to my saying that our Army's traditions got back to the Fianna. He rightly pointed out that the Fianna were a legendary force but wrongly concluded that they should therefore be excluded from our tradition. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* says of *tradition:* 'Opinion or belief or custom handed down, handing down of these from ancestors to posterity'.

I quote again from James Stephens: *Fionn got this first training among women. There is no wonder in that, for it is the pup's mother teaches it to fight and women know that fighting is a necessary art although men pretend there are others that are better.*

(My mother, God rest her, always told me to stand up for myself and never to be a sham so call me a pup if you will, Mr. Columnist.)

Military folklore should, I feel, cover all facets of soldiering by Irishmen whether that soldiering was mythical, with another army or with a native force. It would be a formidable task to cover such a vast field and it is something that would not occur overnight. We need first to be educated in the need for preserving unit history, unit anecdote, records of unit characters — so that at least what is happening to-day will be documented for future generations.

I pleaded for this some years ago in *An Cosantoir* and suggested that adjutants should compile and preserve *Unit Journals:* that they should photograph occurrences of note; that they should keep newspaper cuttings, photographs (dated, with captions) and the like — if only in a kit-bag or something. Then, at least, we would have material available for the compilation of the tail end of our folklore some years hence.

A prominent businessman is to have a book published shortly which will contain a considerable amount of folklore from the War of Independence period. Folklore of the Civil War period is still whispered over frothy heads and it will be some time before it can be safely documented.

Only by coincidence has a little of the Army's folklore of the Second World War period been documented. This came about by references in civilian slanted works on the period.

There is a rich harvest of army lore to be gleaned from the 'Emergency'. Why! The yarns of the '42 manoeuvres alone could make a copious volumn. (It was during this period that the 'legendary character called Captain John' of Col. Voerhoeff's article soldiered — and there are many more anecdotes concerning him to be documented.) We were weaned on these before the Congo came about! And speaking of the Congo — there's another fine area ripe for exploration. Overseas service might offer better prospects for documentation of Army lore for comprehensive journals were kept and unit newspapers (and in some cases sub-unit newspapers) were published. The latter is the real source of good lore.

'What was Trooper O'Neill doing bringing his ground-sheet up the olive-grove during lunch-time last Wednesday?' Behind Trooper O'Neill's action there may be a fine piece of folklore for the future. Between the lines of every written innuendo there is a lode of rich anecdote.

In the early thirties, *An Cumann le Bealoideas Eireann*, did a fine job of collecting folklore from schoolchildren. They enlisted the aid of schoolteachers who offered incentives to those who produced the most worthwhile material. The resulting collection now provides a manuscript source that is invaluable to the folklorist. Could we dare hope that Army education officers might coax some similar military lore from to-day's soldiers? And could the just retired who are still buying *An Cosantoir* get some of their anecdotes down on paper? They are the last hope for getting the lore of the 'Emergency' documented.

There are some fine historic documentations of the War of Independence period — much of which contain folklore of that period — books published by *The Kerryman*, books written by Ernie O'Malley, Judge Comerford, Charles Dalton, Desmond Ryan, Tom Barry, James Gleeson, Liam Deasy to mention but a few.

Some lore of other periods is happened upon in works that are basically oriented in another direction. An example that comes to mind is Richard Berleths, *The Twilight Lords* which includes some interesting and amusing asides about Irish warriors. Our own Barry O'Brien's *Muster at War* contains some good material. Then, of course, we have *An Cosantoir* and *An t-Oglach.*

Yes, with a little co-operation, there would be a skeleton of folklore upon which to build flesh. But flesh comes about only by adequate feeding. And feeding comes about by good providers. If every Officer, NCO and man serving to-day wrote down one piece of anecdote, one example of 'coming the old sweat', one practical billet joke, one incident from his recruiting training and forwarded it to a central receiving agency that would be a fine start.

My original article concluded with that invitation and asked for suggestions as to where that agency should be.

After Col. Verhoeff's encouragement I will stick my neck out and offer to become collector of any proffered pieces of information.

In the meantime, Barrack Education Officers, what about next week's essay: 'An amusing incident from your recruit training'.

Comdt. P. L. O'Farrell

H.Q.,
27 Inf. Bn.,
Dundalk.

The Editor,
An Cosantoir

WHY WE NEED AN ARMOURED REGIMENT

Sir,

I would like to suggest that smaller countries, such as ours, should consider the establishment of a highly mobile Armoured Regiment. It might be equipped, organised and located as follows:

LOCATION: The Curragh Military Camp preferably because of the accommodation facilities to store and repair equipment i.e. Armoured Fighting Vehicles, Armoured Personnel Carriers, and Light Transport. Large open spaces for training, and it is close to the Glen of Imaal for further intensive training and firing of heavy weapons. The Curragh is also in a good strategic position to the major cities, Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick and Waterford, with excellent roadways, and rail links. The western cities and areas could pose a slight problem as regards distance and roads, but they have less strategic value than those in the East, South and Midlands.

ORGANISATION: The Regiment should number not less than one thousand Officers, N.C.O.s and men. It should be organised in two battalions, one heavy armoured, and one light armoured, with a small specialist platoon attached to each battalion. Coy.

establishments should be flexible and not confined to the standard infantry Coy.'s.

The following is a breakdown of the equipment, vehicles and weapons of the heavy and light armoured Bn.

HEAVY ARMOURED BN.
Hqrs. and H.Q. Coy. should consist of the following: Adm. Pln., Comm. Pln. Ops. and Int. Sect., Air Liaison Sect., Trans. Repair and Recovery Sect., Supply and Refuelling Sect., Medical Sect.,
"A" Coy. One Tank Tpt. (4 Scorpion Tanks), 3 tracked A.P.C. Tpts (each Tpt. to have 4 Trojan F.V. 432 A.P.C.'s).
"B" Coy. One Tank Tpt. (4 Scorpion Tanks), 3 tracked A.P.C. Tpts (each Tpt. to have 4 Trojan F.V. 432 A.P.C.'s).
"C" Coy. One Heavy Armd. Car Tpt. (4 Aml. 90 Armd. Cars) 3 Wheeled Apc. Tpts (each Tpt. to have 4 Panhard or Timoney A.P.C.'s)
Sp. Coy. Selfpropelled Gun Battery, Heavy Mortar Battery, 90mm Anti-Tank Battery (6 Abbot F.V. 433 105mm S.P. Guns, 6 120mm Mortars towed by L/Rovers, 6 90mm A/T guns mounted on L/Rovers).

Attached to the Battalion should be a specialist platoon of forty, these should be trained in the following: Helicopter drill, Parachuting, Handling of Explosives, all Infantry Weapons, Sniping, Mountaineering, Survival, Anti-Insurgency, Marksmanship, and to a certain degree seaborne operations . These men should be handpicked from the Army, and no expense should be spared in their training.

LIGHT ARMOURED BN.
Hqrs. and H.Q. Coy establishment should be the same as in the Heavy Armoured Bn.
"A" Coy. One Tank Tpt. (4 Scorpion Tanks), 3 wheeled A.P.C. Tpts. (each Tpt. to have 4 Panhard or Timoney A.P.C.'s).
"B" Coy. One Heavy Armd. Car Tpt. (4 Aml. 90 Armd. Cars), 3 Wheeled Apc Tpts (each Tpt. to have 4 Panhard or Timoney A.P.C.'s).
"C" Coy. One Armd. Car Tpt. (4 Aml. 60 Armd. Cars), 3 Tpts. of short base L/Rovers (each Tpt. to have 6 S.B. L/Rovers with at least two pintle mounted G.P.M.G.'s). Note, each L/Rover to be armoured where possible, i.e. around engine and fuel tanks. Sp. Coy. One Gun Battery, (Heavy Mortar Battery, 90mm Anti-Tank Battery), 6 105mm Pack Howitzers towed by L/Rovers, 6 120mm Mortars towed by L/Rovers, 6 90mm Arti-Tank Guns mounted on L/Rovers).

Specialist Platoon should be the same as in the Heavy Armd. Bn.

The Air Corps should have the following at the disposal of the Regiment. Twelve ground support aircraft (united States Marine Corp Broncos or the V.T.O.L. Harriers), 8 Alouette Mark 3 Helicopters, 6 Puma Helicopters, 6 S.T.O.L. twin engined aircraft for Para drops, supply drops, etc.

J. R. Gallagher, Sgt.

Female Lib

Friends, let me sum up our discussion by saying that we cannot blame the ordinary people of India of being victims of false traditions they still prefer a son to a daughter. But if we want that the problem of age-old security for parents be ensured in the absence of son, the daughter ought to be made legally responsible for the maintenance of aged and infirm parents by amending Section 488 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (now section 125 of the new Code). At present only an adopted daughter is responsible for such maintenance. There is also need for a change in Law forbidding parents having self-acquired property to debar their daughters from inheritance. All said and done a social curse like preference for son will take a long time to go in our country. But ceaseless efforts must be made to get rid of it.

(Currents Events, India)

CO-OPERATIVE BUILDING

The publication of the feature on Co-operative Building by Sgt. N. Williams, 2 F.A. Regt., has aroused considerable interest and the following question raised at Dublin Corporation by Councillor Mrs. Alice Glenn will be of interest.

QUESTION

"To ask the City Manager to give details of procedure to be followed to acquire land from:—

1. Local Authority for a building Co-operative,
2. Exactly what grants or aids are available for same."

REPLY

Undeveloped land is not made available to co-operative groups who generally would not have the resources or expertise for major development. The scheme at present in operation provides that fully developed sites may be made available to a co-operative building group subject to:—

(a) The Members of the group being in need of housing,

(b) the Members satisfying the Corporation that they are competent to organise and manage a building project.

The usual procedure is for a group to get together to become a registered co-operative, to ensure that the members have sufficient finance to carry the project through and then to apply to the Corporation for the required number of sites.

A deposit of 25% of the cost of the site is payable before work is commenced and the balance is payable before the title in the site is handed over by the Corporation.

Members of a Co-operative group who build houses on sites provided by the Corporation and meet the requirements set out by the Department of the Environment can qualify for a site subsidy which amounts now to £500.00 per site. An individual Member of the group who is a Corporation tenant and surrenders vacant possession of the tenancy with a clear rent account, or a person whose name is on the Corporation's Approved Housing Waiting List for a period of at least one year prior to nomination would have the site fine reduced by £200.00. Houses built by a co-operative group normally comply with the requirements of the Department of the Environment for the £1,000.00 grant.

DFAA Fixtures

Handball — 3—4 July	— Clonmel
Golf (Individual) — 9—10 July	— Athlone
Canoeing — 18 July	— Liffey

BOOK REVIEWS

'CASSINO TO THE ALPS' Ernest F. Fisher Jr. U.S. Army, Washington D.C. $17

To physically examine this volume is a real joy to the book-lover for like its companion volumes in the US Army in WWII series it is a right handsome tome. And it has maps a plenty, illustrations, appendices, footnotes and an index all well organised and presented to aid the reader. To read it is, mechanically, very easy.

The content deals with the Allies campaign from Spring 1944 (when they were stuck before Cassino and the Gustaf Line and holding out at Anzio) up to the capitulation at the Alps a year later and it is a story of really hard slog, heroism, coalition clashes, brilliance and bungling, failure and success.

One of the delightful features of this book is that while the US 5th Army constituted but a part of the Allied Forces the campaign is described fully. There is always pressure on Unit historians to record individual heroics even unto "distinguished staying up late to make supper for the officers" and when this phenomenon occurs you really cannot see the wood for the trees. I recall "Okinowa" (a companion volume) where inter alia the laudable heroism of a Marine Company is minutely detailed: - this company captured a hill from the Japs, some pages later this same company captured the same hill from the same Japs and again some more pages later. They never actually lost the hill (in the book) so you get deja vu, myopism, giddy fits and complete disorientation. Not so in this book. There is a maturity which admits to failures, foul-ups and funk. Charitably, explanations, which are sensibly short, are coupled with these admissions. Such explanations are a help to a deeper understanding of the subject - indeed they serve to enhance the status of all the achievements.

There is wonderful balance throughout the book and the minutae of the U.S. Army involvement give us just enough detail of the 'grass roots' or tactical level. Of course it is at a higher level that one of the most dramatic events happened: Mark Clark took Rome and did so in 'disobedience' of Alexander. This Act has been debated ever since.

Fisher tries to be fair to both sides; he explains the significance of Britain's return to mainland Europe and suggests that Clark stole the Brit's thunder - hence the furore, he explains that the Brits' operation orders were usually a concept rather than minutae of execution, he suggests that Alexander liked to keep Clark on a light rein, he upholds a commander's right, indeed duty, to exploit etc. But clearly he is doing his best for Clark who helped him write the book and then vetted it! The book is dedicated to Those Who Served. But let's not kid ourselves; such books by their very nature are **dictated** by T.W.S.!

Many years after the event Alexander said: "I always assured General Clark that Rome would be entered by his army, and I can only assume that publicity rather than military considerations dictated his decision." After reading all Fisher has advanced in argument I think Alexanders judgement still stands. Clark wanted Rome before D-Day and Normandy made such a prize appear less prestigious.

Rome is only one aspect of the Campaign and it is only to be expected that Fisher, with or without the help of Clark, would put the best face on the doings of his countryman. To accuse him of being absolutely partisan would be grossly unfair for Fisher is scholarly in his approach; thirty years elapsing facilitate such an approach and the considerable volume of available material allows saner judgements. In another few years it will not be possible to write a book like this - the witnesses will be gone. Contemporary history is a hard field to work in; you must wait til the blood cools but act before the mind fades. The best contemporary history is written when it is almost too late. 'Cassino to the Alps' is of the best. Vintage contemporary military history.

T. C. L.

THE KILLING GROUND ("The battle of the Falaise Gap — August 1944")— James Lucas and James Barker. B. T. Batsford Ltd., London. 176 pages, illus. £5.95. 1978.

The battle of the Falaise Gap which took place around Argentan, Caen, Falaise, Mortain and other villages thereabouts in Normandy in July and August 1944 was a disaster of the first kind for the German Army.

The emphasis in this book is more on the German experience in these battles than on the Allied side. Their story has already been told. So is described for the first time in English these Normandy battles as experienced by German units. And *very interesting . . . .!*

There were some million and a half German soldiers in the field against a half million Allies. In a short period from 6th July to 14th August the Germans destroyed 3,370 Allied tanks and 475 aircraft. These are some of the items included. The book's format is good but due to the sectioning, i.e. sections specifically about, The Allied Armies; The Terrain; Tactics; Western Flank; Southern Flank; Northern Flank; there is need for some jumping back and forth. There are interesting sections on Intelligence, the Influence of Hitler, Deception, Personalities, and Growth of Allied Invasion Plans. It is ever so slightly anti-American and pro-British, and the reasons are visible and perhaps have some validity. Nevertheless without the arms, armour, materiel where would the British effort be.

The analyses are excellent and the brevity is appreciated. There are a few disappointments. Footnotes would have been some help. The maps are not very good, numerous places not being given, especially the oft-quoted important one of Alencon; there is no scale on any of the five maps.

To balance that the 35 photographs are very ood, as are the pen-pictures of the various commanders, and the extracts from the weekly German sit-reps and Hitlerian orders quoted in the Appendices.

One interesting point noted was the percentages of infantry (14%) in the Allied Armies to Armour, artillery, engineers; (42%) to the administrative "tail", (44%). Comments by the authors are interesting on the efficiency of units on both sides which were previously employed elsewhere, i.e. Norway, North Africa and Russia. The shortage of infantry in the Allied armies was a drawback, while German paucity in air especially and in transport and supply was more so.

Despite the complete domination by the Allied air the authors cleverly demonstrae the fighting efficiency of the German units and the fanatical courage and morale of the Waffen SS. Yet it is the terrible drama of the complete disillusionment of the German commanders in the face of mad Hitlerian orders that is seen here probably more than in any other war book about the Western theatre. One sees the agonisings of Rommel, von Kluge, Model, Eberbach, Dietrich, von Scheppenburg, Hauser and 'Panzer' Meyer. And despite the morality of the struggle it is sad to see the destruction and abandonment of such brave and efficient soldiers by Hitler's stupidity and interference.

Quotes: "The left flank has collapsed" von Kluge; "I could have made the allies pay a fearful price" von Runstedt; "If our situation is not improved, we shall die on the battlefield" von Kluge; "The Army is fighting heroically but the unequal combat is nearing its end" Rommel; "During the night the enemy found a gap which he exploited and rolled over us", 'Panzer' Meyer. "It is the Fuehrer's order", Hausser.

This book is a penetrating insight into the army trapped in the "killing ground". Concise, definite and brief it is a must for C & S and other students of war; this most interesting battle of WW II.

At the start the authors aptly quote Wellington: "Only a battlefield upon which there has been a defeat can surpass in melancholy one upon which a victory has been gained".

P. D. O'D.

THE RUSSIAN MIND— Ronald Hingley. The Bodley Head, London. 248pp. £5.50.

If anybody should know the Russian mind, it's the author of this book. Ronald Hingley has written biographies of Dostoevsky, Chekhov and Joseph Stalin, an excellent guide book to the great classics of Russian literature called "Russian Writers & Society", and other volumes on Tsars, Nihilists, Secret Police, not to mention grammars and courses in the Russian language and a complete translation of Chekhov's plays and stories. In the present book, he has collated and developed the various strands of Russian thought and action, character and temperament, strengths and weaknesses so that the end product is a very fascinating amalgam of the myriad facets that make up that enigma known as a Russian.

The author, as always, writes in a most attractive style and puts his ideas across lucidly. Perhaps the greatest value of this book lies in that very lucidity, for it clears up a lot of apparent contradictions and inconsistencies in the Russian character in such a way that the conclusions arrived at make sense and give information to those whose knowledge of Russian culture is almost nil. It is all very fine for the fluent Russian speaker who is widely read in the great classics, reasonably familiar with Soviet writings and has considerable experience of dealings with the new Soviet citizen, either through visits to the USSR or by meeting delegations, to nod his head and chuckle with approval at some apposite revelation. If the average, literate person, whose knowledge of the Russian character is limited to impressions gained from superficial products of press, TV or radio, can appreciate the logic and cogency of Dr. Hingley's arguments, then this book is of inestimable value.

And, of course, the grand thing about it that the author does express himself so lucidly and so entertainingly. Let us take one concrete example. Ronald Hingley devotes a lot of space to the phenomenon of *vranyo* (rhymes with "can go") the national brand of leg-pulling, ribbing or to use a soldier's term, ball-hopping. Since many Russians will solemnly assure you that they have NO talent for lying but equally that they are incapable of telling the truth, they resort to *vranyo* as the most convenient form of communication. Mention this word to a Russian and you can settle down for a dissertation which will cover everything from what Pushkin, Dostoevsky or Leonid Andreyev had to say about it, to some fascinating practical demonstration of it, without, of course, ever admitting any personal addiction to it.

The whole thing is that you must play the game according to the strictest rules. Even when you know there isn't a word of truth in it, keep a straight face and never shatter the fantasy. There's a marvellous example in Dostoevsky's "*The Idiot*" when General Ivolgin relates an incident in a railway carriage which he had once purportedly shared with a lady and her lapdog. Objecting to his smoking she had snatched the cigar out of his mouth and thrown it out the window, whereupon Ivolgin retaliated by throwing her dog after it! The whole effect is ruined in the book by a listener, unsympathetic to *vranyo*, who breaks the conventions by remarking that the incident had recently been reported in a Belgian newspaper from which the inference followed that the General had not been concerned at all.

It will, of course, be obvious that this hardly exclusively Russian habit will rarely, if ever, do any harm, and may enliven many a drab conversation. When it "goes public" however, it becomes something more serious. How often will Soviets emphatically avow that there is no difficulty about travelling in or out of the Soviet Union, or that the works of Trotsky and Pasternak are readily available in any Soviet book-shop when you know very well that they aren't? It is not inevitable that these Russians are consciously lying, or that they are parrotting what is facilely dismissed in the West as something called the "Party line". It is no more than a resort to traditional modes of communication, and the individual concerned is perfectly sincere about it. Likewise russians tend to assume that any public relations tour "spiel" to which they are subjected by some of our institutions or firms is just our version of *vranyo*.

The author develops this to its logical conclusion when he deals with what is one of the most persistent ploys of Soviet propaganda writing where:

> "The government has also exploited the traditional Russian genius for blurring the concept of time. On the one hand both citizenry and foreign visitors are deluged with vranyo-infused, self-pitying tirades about the iniquities of the inglorious past: those of the Tsarist regime, of foreign intervention in the Civil War, of the Teuton occupant in 1941-5. On the other hand they are also bemused by ecstatic visions of the glorious future when, in x years, America will be overtaken and the problems of providing abundant food, transport, living space and other amenities will have been triumphantly solved in a manner destined to shame every other society on earth. Thus is every attempt made to divert attention from present actualities which, though not necessarily sordid or discreditable in all their aspects, emphatically do not bear out the wonder-working claims of official doctrine. To pretend that a paradise has been (well, is just about to be) triumphantly established on earth, while simultaneously explaining that failure to realise such a goal is due to the machinations of enemies (Tsars, Whites, Hitlerites, Americans, capitalists) — here is one of those splendidly self-contradictory operations which so baffle observers uninitiated into the mysteries of *vranyo*."

There are a multitude of other facets of the Russian mind dealt with in this way. I have no doubt but that the Kremlin would vehemently denounce it as a vitriolic outpouring of anti-Soviet prejudice, particularly when you bear in mind their normal reaction to anything which is less than 100% adulatory. Ironically, I think that if ever we are to come to terms with the Russians, it is on the basis of such a clearcut, fairminded and loving analysis of them, warts and all, as we get in this book, that we can build.

M.D.B.

NAVAL GUN. Ian Hogg and John Batchelor. Blandford Press. £8.95.

If, like myself, you are an avid reader of C. S. Forester but have often wondered what the exact difference was between a 'Culverin' or a 'Saker', a 'Carronade' or a 'Cannonade', then this book will soon answer most of your questions. The book is an interesting and exceptionally well illustrated history of the Naval Gun.

The history of the gun is followed through from the days of the bombards and serpentines to the complicated, full automatic weapons of today. Each advance in gun construction is followed, of necessity, by improvements in armour, projectiles and propellants. The author follows these advances in an interesting, well ordered manner. Each advance is well documented with interesting anecdotes which make the book just as interesting to the layman as to the professional gunner.

One such anecdote discusses the Admiralty's reluctance to introduce flint-locks to maritime cannons. Their objection was that the service tubes used with land ordnance, at that time, were made of metal and would be blown from the vent when the gun was fired, due to back pressures. Having been blown out they would land on the deck, and since the sailors of the day were given to running about bare footed, the expanded tubes, lying on the deck would cut their feet. The Captain, who was trying to persuade the Admiralty to use flint-locks, overcame this by introducing a service tube made from goose quills and providing flint-locks at his own expense. This was done without the knowledge of the Admiralty and it was only as a result of the outstanding success of this system at the Battle of Saints that the Admiralty finally yielded.

The book is extremely well illustrated but the diagrams often precede the text by five or six pages and this can be very irritating. On pages where there are numerous diagrams, the accompanying notes are not indexed to the individual diagrams and do not even follow a consistent sequence. This is very irritating and must be confusing to anyone not already familiar with the guns.

I was disappointed that the authors ceased discussing barrel construction with the wire wound barrel produced in 1890. They left a great deal unsaid. However, despite my complaints regarding the indexing of diagrams and their failure to follow through on barrel construction, I found the book to be very interesting and informative.

W.G.D.

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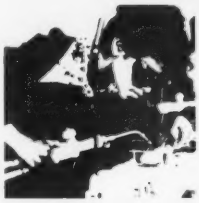

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